



ANNOUNCEMENT OCPA's 2009 SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST

TO: Paralegal Students and Working or Unemployed Paralegals

SCHOLARSHIP PURPOSE: Two Scholarships, valued at \$500 each, will be awarded to Paralegals or Paralegal Students for reimbursement of paralegal education, seminars, meetings, memberships or fees for certifications (example, the CLA exam or preparation classes), or advanced certification (example, ACP). Answers to an *Essay Question* will be used to determine the Winners!

APPLICANT QUALIFICATIONS: (Besides OCPA Membership - 2 of the following 3 qualifications)

- Enrolled in Paralegal class currently or have taken 4 units applicable to a Paralegal Certificate in the past three years.
- Work, or have held a position as a Paralegal within the past three years.
- Live, work or attend Paralegal classes in Orange County.

TO APPLY: Complete the *Qualification Sheet* and attach your essay answer on a separate sheet without your identifying information. While your *Essay* should provide truthful facts and answers, omit details that would specifically identify you, as the contest judges are to impartially review the *Essay*, not the writer. Submit your *Qualification Sheet* and *Essay* before the **Due Date of October 5, 2009** to Scholarship Chairman, at Scholarship@ocparalegal.org or via fax to Mary Lynn Norby, Scholarship Chairman, OCPA at (949) 851-1307.

ESSAY JUDGING CRITERIA: Judges will consider equally: (1) Did the response address all of the questions; (2) Character values reflected in the responses; (3) Writing and grammar skills; (4) Basic understanding of Bus.& Prof. Code § 6450; (5) Following instructions; and (6) Quality of the responses.

ESSAY TOPIC: (Submit a 1- or 2-page typed essay including all of the following points)

- From your own personal status (student, employed as paralegal, etc), discuss how classroom and on-line classes in paralegal programs contribute to the skills of a paralegal. Use examples.
- Which classes you have had or might take would you consider highly contributory to your employability and/or advancement as a paralegal?
- Discuss what you understand to be the responsibilities of a paralegal and document your source(s).
- What criteria would you use to decide which job to take if you were offered three jobs at the same time? Include a *Decision Chart* to visually depict the choices.



**2009 OCPA Scholarship
Qualification Sheet**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone for notification: _____ Is this a cell phone? ____

Member of OCPA? _____ If Yes, Status is: _____
(Student) (Associate) (Full Member)

Member of any other Paralegal Organization? _____

Explain how you meet the Applicant Qualifications: _____

How might you use the scholarship benefit? _____

Verification: Please sign below to verify that you wrote and prepared your essay answers solely by yourself without assistance from others.

Signature: _____ Date _____

[ATTACH THIS QUALIFICATION SHEET TO YOUR ESSAY.]