

**Thursday, February 9, 2023** (class 5 of 30!!)

**Today** – LOTS!!

- Introduction to OpenLab!
- "Law in Culture Review" assignment!
- "Where do you want to work?" assignment!
- Finishing paralegal roles & skills!

**For next class** (Tu. Feb. 14 ♥):

- Register for OpenLab & our course site!
- Post "Who I Am" on OL! *Details in OL "Assignments" tab.*
- Post law office on OL by 8am!
- Read ch. 2, pp. 20-31 & (especially) 38-52!
- Review sample resumes posted on OL – be ready to comment on them!

**Th. Feb. 16: QUIZ #1!!**

**ASAP!**

- Confirm access to CT email! *Visit Welcome Center for help.*
- Please email me:
  - phone # and email address – *for emergencies only!*
  - days & times you can meet for about 1/2 hour!

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**Paralegals may *NOT*:**

- give legal advice to clients
  - represent clients in most judicial proceedings
  - file documents with a court if the attorney has not reviewed and signed
  - sign her/his own name to any documents filed with a court
  - sign her/his own name to any document without indicating the she/he is a paralegal
  - set legal fees
- ... *only **licensed attorneys** may do these things!!*

**There is no "paralegal license"!!** *But there is . . .*

**Paralegal certification:** recognition by a private, voluntary paralegal organization (not government) that an individual satisfies the organization's competency standards. *It is:*

- optional – *NOT required to work as a paralegal.*
- not "JUST earning a paralegal certificate"—*there's more to it!*

**TWO main requirements -- You need both!!**

- (1) education to be a paralegal (college degree, certificate program, etc.) **AND**
- (2) passing the organization's written exam.

**Two major national paralegal organizations certify paralegals:**

- National Association of Legal Assistants (NALA, [nala.org](http://nala.org))
- National Federation of Paralegal Associations (NFPA, [paralegals.org](http://paralegals.org))