

Fresno City College
Paralegal Studies Program
Business Division
1101 E. University Avenue
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TOP 100 OF THE NATION

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Since 1989 the FCC Paralegal Studies Program has offered exemplary training for California paralegals. The program offers both a certification program and an A.S. Degree which fulfill the requirements of California Business and Professions Code § 6450 et seq. Internship placement is an integral part of the program providing practical experience and an opportunity for networking in the legal field.

For Admissions
Information, please contact:

Fresno City College
Admissions Office

(559) 442-4600

MCLE

Mandatory Continuing Legal Education credits are offered periodically through the Approved California State Bar General Provider: Fresno City College Student Paralegal Association.

To contribute an article,
email Editor at:
plegalres@scccd.org

ON POINT!

December 2007

THE NIGHT BEFORE IT'S DUE

by

Brian J. McCully

(with apologies to Clement C. Moore)

'Twas the night before its due date
And inside the house,
The computer was working
With help from a mouse.

Research notes were spread
On the table with care
In hopes that the answer
Would be found there.

When out in the street
There arose such a clatter
I sprang from my chair
To see what was the matter.

Away to the window
I flew like a flash,
Tore open the curtain
While teeth I did gnash.

The tulle fog spread like fallen snow
Giving an eerie look to objects below.
When what to my wondering eyes
should appear,
But a luggage cart, briefcases and
someone standing near.

A little balding fellow
So lively and quick,
I knew in a moment
It must be Mr. McC . . .

I then thought of how often
His assignments came,
And the way he lectured, questioned
And tested by using no name.

I'd often observe in his every class
Anxious students hoping to pass
In my seat when I turned around
Down the aisle came Mc. McC .
Not far from the ground.

A bundle of handouts
He had flung in his pack,
And some slipped in tardy
Behind his turned back.

The stump of a red pen
He held tight in his teeth
And his red ink it encircled
'My papers like a wreath.

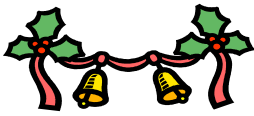
He was occasionally grumpy,
A downright demanding little elf,
And I groaned when I saw him
In spite of myself.

With the homework finished
As it went down the row,
I'd think to myself
"Well, there it goes."

As he exited the classroom
His briefcases he'd grab,
Headed for his office
With no time to gab.

But I heard him exclaim
When almost out of sight,
Merry Christmas paralegal students
You're doin' all right!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!!

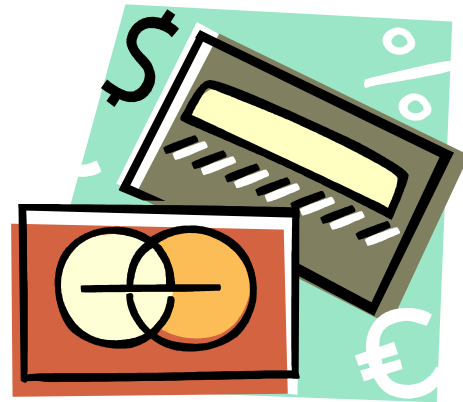


Merry Christmas in Legal Terms

Please accept without obligation, express or implied, these best wishes for an environmentally safe, socially responsible, low stress, non addictive, and gender neutral celebration of the winter solstice holiday as practiced within the most enjoyable traditions of the religious persuasion of your choice (but with respect for the religious or secular persuasions and/or traditions of others, or for their choice not to practice religious or secular traditions at all) and further for a fiscally successful, personally fulfilling, and medically uncomplicated onset of the generally accepted calendar year (including, but not limited to, the Christian calendar, but not without due respect for the calendars of choice of other cultures). The preceding wishes are extended without regard to the race, creed, colour, age, physical ability, religious faith, choice of computer platform, or sexual preference of the wishee(s).

POINSETTIA

Poinsettia was introduced to the United States from Mexico by Joel Roberts Poinsett, Charleston, S.C., in 1828, while he was Minister to Mexico. It was considered to be the "flower of the blessed night," representing the star of Bethlehem to Mexicans in the 18th century. It is a common decoration in Mexican Nativity processions. The poinsettia as a potted plant was promoted by Albert Ecke, Hollywood, California, in the early 1900's.



NEW CREDIT CARD SCAM

Sadly, this time of year brings many scammers out to fleece the public. This story was passed on via email and asked that it be passed on for public safety.

[Snopes.com](http://www.snopes.com) says this scam is true. See this site:

<http://www.snopes.com/crime/warnings/creditcard.asp>

This scam is pretty slick since they provide YOU with all the information, except the one piece they want. Note, the callers do not ask for your card number; they already have it. By understanding how the VISA & MasterCard Telephone Credit Card Scam works, you'll be better prepared to protect yourself.

One of our employees was called on Wednesday from "VISA", and I was called on Thursday from "MasterCard".

The scam works like this: Person calling says, "This is (name), and I'm calling from the Security and Fraud Department at VISA. My Badge number is 12460. Your card has been flagged for an unusual purchase pattern, and I'm calling to verify. This would be on your VISA card which was issued by (name of bank). Did you purchase an Anti-Telemarketing Device for \$497.99 from a Marketing Device company based in Arizona?" When you say "No", the caller continues with, "Then we will be issuing a credit to your account. This is a company we have been watching and the charges range from \$297 to

\$497, just under the \$500 purchase pattern that flags most cards. Before your next statement, the credit will be sent to (gives you your address), is that correct?"

You say "yes". The caller continues – "I will be starting a Fraud investigation. If you have any questions, you should call the 1- 800 number listed on the back of your card (1-800-VISA) and ask for Security.

You will need to refer to this Control Number. The caller then gives you a 6 digit number. "Do you need me to read it again?"

Here's the IMPORTANT part on how the scam works. The caller then says, "I need to verify you are in possession of your card". He'll ask you to "turn your card over and look for some numbers". There are 7 numbers; the first 4 are part of your card number, the next 3 are the security Numbers' that verify you are the possessor of the card. These are the numbers you sometimes use to make Internet purchases to prove you have the card. The caller will ask you to read the 3 numbers to him. After you tell the caller the 3 numbers, he'll say, "That is correct, I just needed to verify that the card has not been lost or stolen, and that you still have your card. Do you have any other questions?" After you say No, the caller then thanks you and states, "Don't hesitate to call back if you do", and hangs up.

You actually say very little, and they never ask for or tell you the Card number. But after we were called on Wednesday, we called back within 20 minutes to ask a question. Are we glad we did! The REAL VISA Security Department told us it was a scam and in the last 15 minutes a new purchase of \$497.99 was charged to our card

Long story – short – we made a real fraud report and closed the VISA account. VISA is reissuing us a new number. What the scammers want is the 3-digit PIN number on the back of the card. Don't give it to them. Instead, tell them you'll call VISA or Master card directly for verification of their conversation. The real VISA told us that they will never ask for anything on the card as they already know the information since they issued the card! If

you give the scammers your 3 Digit PIN Number, you think you're receiving a credit. However, by the time you get your statement you'll see charges for purchases you didn't make, and by then it's almost too late and/or more difficult to actually file a fraud report.

What makes this more remarkable is that on Thursday, I got a call from a "Jason Richardson of Master Card" with a word-for-word repeat of the VISA scam. This time I didn't let him finish. I hung up! We filed a police report, as instructed by VISA. The police said they are taking several of these reports daily! They also urged us to tell everybody we know that this scam is happening.



MISTLETOE

Mistletoe is connected to Germano-Celtic tree worship. Mistletoe is a common parasite on oak and ash trees. It remains green throughout the winter, thus symbolizing renewal. Kissing under mistletoe bough or sprigs was a custom of the English servant class in the 18th century until 1850 when it began to spread to the upper classes. Dickens describes the activity in the *Pickwick Papers*, 1837.

CHRISTMAS THOUGHTS

STRESSED is just **DESSERTS** spelled backward.

What's the favorite Christmas Carol of new parents? ***Silent Night!***



Christmas Fudge

- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup light cream
- 1/4 cup butter
- 1/4 cup light corn syrup
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1 cup marshmallows (miniature)
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1/2 cup pecan halves

Combine sugar, cream, butter, syrup and salt in a heavy saucepan. Bring to a gentle boil over low heat. Cook, stirring constantly, until sugar melts. Continue cooking, stirring occasionally, until mixture reaches 240 degrees on candy thermometer. This is the soft ball stage. Remove from heat; stir in marshmallows and vanilla. Stir until marshmallows melt and candy starts to lose its gloss. Stir in pecan halves. Continue stirring until candy starts to set. Pour into buttered 8-inch square pan. Cool, then cut into squares.

CONSUMER LAW PATHFINDERS

At this time of the year, there are many considerations that consumers should keep in mind to keep from being the victim of some sort of scam or just an honest error by a legitimate company or business. The following websites will help to stay informed of procedures and policies that can help in difficult situations.

<http://www.lectlaw.com/tcos.html>

This is a general information site with facts on credit billing errors, avoiding money scams, rain checks, resolving computer disputes and many more suggestions for the consumer.

<http://www.consumerlaw.org>

This site, the National Consumer Law Center, lists most things non-lawyers should know concerning their rights as consumer borrowers, available trainings, and information on a variety of consumer issues.

<http://www.hg.org/consume.html>

This site brings many consumer resources to you at the click of a mouse: the Better Business Bureau, Consumer Information Center, Legal News, Legal Form and Consumer News. Definitely worth checking out.





HOLIDAY TREE SAFETY

- Artificial trees are safer and cleaner.
- A real tree should be fresh; no needles fall when the tree is tapped on the ground.
- Minimum amount of water the tree stand should hold is one gallon.
- Check water level in tree stand daily.
- Place the tree away from floor heaters and fireplaces.
- Use only UL Approved lights.
- Do not link more than three strands of lights together.
- Use only miniature lights because they have cool bulbs.
- When leaving home or going to sleep, turn off your lights.
- No candles on the tree.
- Never discard tree by burning it in the fireplace.

PARALEGAL RESOLUTIONS FOR 2005

With the end of 2006 and the beginning of 2007 we are all reminded that with the New Year we begin a new semester and a new chance. We have a chance to improve our academic behavior over the last semester and to implement in the new semester what we have already learned. The following are some New Year's resolutions that are commonly listed:

I will:

1. not procrastinate.
2. proofread my work before I turn it in.
3. read the assigned chapters in my textbook.
4. take notes during class.
5. attend at least one networking opportunity.
6. attend class regularly.
7. turn homework in on time.
8. strive to do my best.
9. remember I can do anything one day at a time.
10. eat and sleep regularly.



FCC FACULTY & STAFF:

Want to Save a Few Dollars?



PG&E and Fresno City College have partnered in a pilot program to reach out to FCC college students who may qualify for special programs. The CARE/FERA programs offer a 20% discount to eligible households on their gas and/or electric bill. The Energy Partners Program offers free weatherization measures to eligible households and energy-efficient appliances. Please encourage your students to visit the PG&E websites below to see if they qualify and to apply for these programs. Application brochures will also be available at the following campus locations:

Student Services

College Activities

College Relations

Employment Resources

Financial Aid Computer Lab

<http://www.pge.com/care/>

http://www.pge.com/res/financial_assistance/energy_partners/

NEW WAY TO DO CAR JACKING



BEWARE OF PAPER IN THE BACK WINDOW OF YOUR VEHICLE

Heads up everyone!

You walk across the parking lot, unlock your car and get inside. You start the engine and shift into Reverse. When you look into the rearview mirror to back out of your parking space, you notice a piece of paper stuck to the middle of the rear window. So, you shift into Park, unlock your doors, and jump out of your car to remove that paper (or whatever it is) that is obstructing your view. When you reach the back of your car, that is when the carjackers appear out of nowhere, jump into your car and take off. They practically mow you down as they speed off in your car.

And guess what, ladies? I bet your purse is still in the car. So now the car jacker has your car, your home address, your money, and your keys. Your home and your whole identity are now compromised.

If you see a piece of paper stuck to your back window, just drive away. Remove the paper later.

BE SAFE; NOT SORRY!

SANTA: The Great Judge in the Sky

Sometimes the pace and pressures of the holiday season cause students to dread this time of year. Have you ever considered the activities of the holidays are great paralegal training? Let's compare:

Activities	Holiday Season	Paralegal Duties
Deadline	When children wake up on Christmas morning and rush the tree; no excuses accepted.	Trial date, discovery deadlines, filing deadlines, other court appearances.
Prioritization	Which toy requires the earliest attention—available quantity for purchase, desire of child, sales, local availability or needs to be ordered.	Multi-tasking of various cases, lawyers, demands of specific cases, clients, and the general office.
Working as a Team	Duties for household and shopping divided and designated to spouse, older children, loving relatives and friends	A case has different aspects and tasks which need to be considered and assigned to various members of the office team.
Calendaring	Schedules of family members, social obligations, store hours, and time lines for projects need to be determined and tracked.	Set calendar deadlines and reminders (ticklers) for case activities on the many cases in the office; set appointments for lawyers and clients.
Communication	Not only must clear communication be given to see that all activities are covered, but there are the Christmas cards, letters, and invitations which need to be taken care of.	Communication must be done with the court personnel, opposing counsel, your client, the members of your office staff, and prospective clients.
Positive Environment	This is the season of peace, joy and love. Amidst all the activity of the season, someone needs to set the tone for the family and household.	Clients, opposing counsel, and prospective clients need to sense that the office is running smoothly and need to hear professional and pleasant communication on the phone and within the offices no matter what disaster may be happening.
Follow-Through	Check off items on the shopping list, wrap presents, get batteries, make sure proper tools are available for assembling gifts, and ensuring the food shopping is completed.	Make sure completed projects are mailed, served or filed. Make sure proofs of service are filed if necessary. Clean up, organize, and close out necessary files.



The paralegal profession requires knowledge of specific data and skills. However, the foundation borrows from skills developed through ordinary activities of life—organization, communication, interpersonal interactions. It's up to each of us to make the connection.