



Education *in the* Legal Profession

Education is quite a hot topic in the Legal Profession in 2005. Just as we master a new process, more changes come along. As legal professionals, keeping up-to-speed on the latest practice and procedures is a key priority to running our business effectively.

The demand for learning is high. Never have legal professionals and their staff had to be so on-task as over the past year.

Let's start with Land Title filings going online. Although it is not mandatory to file online, it is a now reality. Since April 1, 2004, many Transfers, Mortgages, Discharges, and Claims of Builder's Liens are being filed via the Electronic Filing System (EFS).

FAQs

How can I still use my Registry Agent? What is Adobe Acrobat 6? Where do I get it? How does it work? Where can I get a course on it? What is a digital signature? How does it work?

Manufactured Home Registry filings went online at the end of 2003. The new forms introduced with the new *Manufactured Home Act*, namely the Notice to Transfer or Change Ownership, the Bill of Sale, and the Application for Residential Exemption forms, must all be filed online. A person must be "qualified," however, before affecting such filing.

The importance of expert-led training cannot be denied.

What is a Qualified Supplier and why do they exist? Who is a Qualified Supplier? Can I use them for my filing needs? What is the difference between a Qualified Supplier and a Qualified Service Provider?

There's even an online registry for your Wills, Powers of Attorney, and Representation Agreements: Nidus e-Registry.

In addition to that, you must keep current on the updated versions of your

Word Processing Package, your email, and your Web browsers.

Over the last few years, it has become increasingly evident that organizations need to continually educate themselves to keep up. Although traditional instructor-led training appears to be the preferred method of teaching, these changes have forced organizations and the trainers themselves to take a look at alternative education methodologies.

Most training institutions offer the written materials that accompany a certain seminar. Some even offer video recordings of a particular seminar. In addition, various forms of self-paced learning such as CD-ROMs, e-learning, and online reference materials have provided cost-effective alternatives to the learning world.

The importance of expert-led training cannot be denied. No matter what the topic may be, there are times when people simply need to "hear from the expert." Without a solid framework of principles to guide the learning process, effective knowledge transfer and retention cannot

take place. Training that does not produce knowledge translates into wasted dollars, time, and resources.

This has introduced the e-learning vehicle, also referred to as Webinars—virtual learning or the virtual classroom.

What is e-learning, really?

Simply put, e-learning is online training delivered in real time: instructor-led or in a self-paced format. While e-learning's roots are based in traditional instructor-led training and computer-based training, the eye of e-learning is on the future, evolving to create training options that didn't even exist a few years ago.

Effective e-learning combines the proven training methods of traditional instructor-led training with the rich resources of computer-based training to create an engaging, online experience. With the online flexibility, you can train and retain the mission-critical information needed whenever and wherever, without ever having to leave the office or the people who need you.

Engaging hands-on-lab simulations allowed students to test their skills in a perfectly simulated environment, increasing the likelihood they'll remember what they've learned and be able to apply it later on the job. Organizations are beginning to realize the benefits, including increased productivity, decreased help-desk costs, improved business transformation, and employee retention.

While the basics of e-learning are simple, the differences among providers are vast. Before choosing your e-learning vendor, ensure there is the right blend of expert-led content, proven technology, and flexible service and support options. E-learning can be a winning and effective education solution! ▲

Rita Scott, Manager of Education for Dye & Durham, is responsible for the training programs in their BC Operations. She is also a member of the Canadian Society for Training and Development.

rscott@dyedurhambc.com
<http://www.dyedurhambc.com>