

Legal Assistant's Position: Approaching **Gender Balance**

Vernon (Vern) Bajaj



The Paralegal Diploma program at Capilano College paid dividends in my career by allowing me to handle a varied workload. The faculty is comprised of hardworking instructors, many of whom are practising legal professionals. Their knowledge and experience prepared me to work in an exacting field riddled with demands and deadlines.

The secret to success is spotting trends and anticipating an employer's needs. A general "can do" attitude demonstrated by volunteering for projects and taking the initiative to get work done goes a long way in this business.

Studies have indicated nearly 85 percent of Canada's paralegals are women but more men are breaking into the field.

I think this is positive because it brings a balance into the workplace. In fact, male paralegals may have a better chance of securing an interview because recruiters are trying to keep pace with this changing market. People want to be politically correct with respect to hiring men for jobs that have for years been regarded as jobs for females only.

Praneet Singh



My 2 years of experience have shown me that for anyone pursuing a career in the legal field, required skills are attention to detail and the ability to organize and prioritize a substantial workload and to work independently with minimal supervision.

Capilano College's Paralegal Diploma program does a commendable job in entrenching the skills critical for working in an environment of deadlines and demands for perfection. Further, the program offers a support network of individuals who are undergoing the same challenges—valuable resources during the very early stages of a career.

Although most people who choose to become paralegals are women, men find this a vocation that teaches us how to improve our multitasking abilities and time management skills. I now see a drastic improvement in my level of efficiency from when I first started working as a paralegal.

For me, this career is a stepping stone to increasing my knowledge of the law and my level of involvement with the legal profession. ▲