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Paralegal Program Overview

The Blackstone Paralegal Studies independent study program is based on the historic Modern American Law series developed by legal scholars and designed to provide a simple, yet authoritative, commentary on the law (Volumes I - X). Starting out with an overview of the origins of the legal system in the United States, the program moves on to cover contracts, torts, criminal law, real property, pleadings and practice in civil law and criminal procedure, wills and trusts, partnerships and corporations, and constitutional law.

These volumes are supplemented with study materials and textbooks that provide the student with the additional skills they need to enter the paralegal field, including research and writing skills and a background in professional ethics.

The program will provide graduates with a strong foundation in the fundamentals of the law in preparation for a career in the paralegal field. For those who would like to delve further into any of the topics presented, students can pursue their interests through research and additional reading, by working in the profession, or by taking an advanced paralegal studies course with Blackstone.

Program Objectives

- Define law and identify basic legal terms.
- Explain legal concepts related to contracts.
- Identify aspects of torts.
- Identify legal cause, negligence, and deceit.
- Demonstrate an understanding of civil and criminal defamation.
- Give the legal definition of property and describe damages.
- Distinguish a crime from a tort and list the three classes of crime.
- Describe larceny and identify the three degrees of larceny.
- Identify legal terms related to real property.

- Identify actions to recover damages in civil suits.
- Identify legal terms related to civil actions.
- Identify legal terms related to criminal procedure.
- Explain the process of criminal procedure.
- Identify and explain legal concepts related to wills.
- Identify and explain legal concepts related to trusts and trustees.
- Explain how partnerships and corporations are formed.
- Discuss the elements of constitutional law.
- Describe how legal research should be conducted.
- Identify effective job-search techniques for paralegals.
- Describe common ethics related to the paralegal profession.

Program Outline

Volume I: Law - Its Origin, Nature and Development, & Contracts

Lesson 1: Introduction to Law

Lesson 2: Contracts: An Introduction

Lesson 3: Contractual Law

Lesson 4: Types of Contracts

Volume II: Torts

Lesson 5: Torts: An Introduction

Lesson 6: Negligence

Lesson 7: Defamation and Damages

Lesson 8: Right of Privacy and Relationships

Volume III: Criminal Law

Lesson 9: Crimes, Intents, and Criminal Capacity

Lesson 10: Burglary, Arson, and Offenses Against Property

Volume IV: Real Property - Part I

Lesson 11: Real and Personal Property: Introduction and History

Lesson 12: Conversion, Remainders, and Perpetuities

Volume V: Real Property - Part II

Lesson 13: Dower

Lesson 14: Licenses, Titles, Covenants, and Powers

Volume VI: Pleadings and Practice in Civil Actions, Criminal Procedure

Lesson 15: Pleadings in Civil Actions

Lesson 16: Pleadings in Civil Actions

Lesson 17: Practice in Civil Actions

Lesson 18: Criminal Procedure

Volume VII: Wills and Trusts

Lesson 19: An Introduction to Wills

Lesson 20: How Wills May Be Revoked

Lesson 21: An Introduction to Trusts

Volume VIII: Partnerships and Corporations

Lesson 22: Private Corporations, Part I

Lesson 23: Private Corporations, Part II

Lesson 24: Partnerships

Volume IX: Constitutional Law Part I

Lesson 25: Definitions and General Principles

Lesson 26: Organization and Power of the United States Government

Volume X: Constitutional Law Part II

Lesson 27: Constitutional Guaranties of Fundamental Rights

Volume XI: Legal Research and Writing – Part I

Lesson 28: Legal Research and Writing – Part I

Volume XII: Legal Research and Writing – Part II

Lesson 29: Legal Research and Writing – Part II

Volume XIII: How to Find a Job as a Paralegal

Lesson 30: Employability Skills

Volume XIV: Ethics for Paralegals Study Guide

Lesson 31: Ethics for Paralegals