

Friday, May 23 10:15 am-11:45 am

## 8001 Paralegal Open Forum

**Walter Connor**Corporate Paralegal - Litigation
DuPont Legal

## Faculty Biographies

## Walter A. Connor

Walter A. Connor III is a corporate paralegal with E.I. DuPont de Nemours and Company in Wilmington, Delaware. His responsibilities include paralegal support as part of a team handling large scale, document intensive commercial, toxic tort, and personal injury litigations. He is a case manager and member of DuPont Legal's discovery management team. He is also part of DuPont Legal's major incident investigation team.

Prior to joining DuPont, Mr. Connor was employed by Hoyle, Morris & Kerr LLC in Philadelphia as a paralegal working on nationwide school district asbestos cases. While at Hoyle, Morris & Kerr, he traveled all over the United States as part of the trial team on numerous school district asbestos cases.

In his spare time, Mr. Connor is a co-chair of The Diamond State Classic, one of the country's best high school girl's basketball tournaments.

Mr. Connor received his B.A. from Wilkes College in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania and his paralegal certificate from The Institute for Paralegal Training in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

## **Paralegal Roundtable Discussion Topics**

- 1. What format works best? Paralegals individually assigned to a particular team or a paralegal pool of resources with specialists in areas such as litigation, contract sourcing, etc.
- 2. Are paralegals becoming more and more responsible for information technology expertise? What are the upside and downside of this trend?
- 3. In the modern office, what things are being done to address generational differences? In other words, what tools are available to deal with the Baby Boomer, the Generation X'er, and the Generation Y'er?
- 4. Work/life balancing. Does your office support the virtual office, working from home, etc? What are the upside and downside of this trend?
- 5. Exempt v. Non-Exempt classification of paralegals. How does your company classify the paralegal? If non-exempt, is overtime paid?
- 6. Career Progression for the paralegal. How does a paralegal get into your company? Once you're in the door where do you go from there? Is there a career progression path? If not, what are some ways to define/design one? Are there educational minimums to be a paralegal at your company?
- 7. Knowledge Management? How is your company dealing with knowledge management? How do you get knowledge from someone's head and into a format useful to others?
- 8. What makes a good attorney/paralegal team? How do you get over the hurdles?
- 9. Is your company outsourcing resources? How do you see that affecting the legal department? What about paralegals specifically?