

August 25, 2006

Florida Supreme Court  
Attn: Clerk's Office  
500 South Duval Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1927

**Re: Petition for Rule 20 – Regulation for Paralegals**

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing in support of the Florida Bar regulation of paralegals. I am certified as a Paralegal through the National Association of Legal Assistants. I was in banking with no legal experience at all and in 1988 I began working in a law firm as a receptionist. In 1989 the firm I was with moved me into a secretarial position and gave me the title "Paralegal." I didn't have a clue what a paralegal even did! NOT A CLUE! My responsibilities remained secretarial but, to the firm, paralegal sounded good and, for example, the letters leaving the firm would read: "call my paralegal, Diane." I thought: "who, me?" I left the firm in 1991 and took a position as legal secretary/legal assistant and began to learn about the legal field. Feeling uncomfortable with my lack of legal knowledge, I first took courses, started with the firm I am with now, and studied very hard to become a Professional Legal Secretary (PLS) with the National Association of Legal Secretaries. I cannot tell you how much my studies taught me. Ethics, for one, was new and interesting to me. I wondered how I could have work in law firms this long and not have known about ethics and the ramifications of one's actions! A few years later, I studied even harder and earned my title as a Certified. I now take pride from the trials and tribulations I endured to learn and earn my title as a Paralegal.

Seeing first hand that the paralegal title is given all too frequently to individuals in our area with little or no qualifications, I strongly agree that we need to regulate our profession so that we can reacquire respect, knowledge, skill and professionalism of the paralegal title in order to give our public good quality legal services.

By regulating our paralegals, individuals who lack the proper knowledge will be deterred from claiming qualification as a paralegal and Florida law firms can regain the trust, standards and respect they deserve.

Please vote in favor of Rule 20.

Very truly yours,  
**TREISER, COLLINS & VERNON**

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cc: John Harkness, Executive Director, The Florida Bar