

Second Place Winner  
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**WHY I AM CHOOSING TO BECOME A PARALEGAL**

I am a forty-one year old homemaker who immigrated to the United States from India. For many years I focused all my attentions on my family and put my dreams for a career on hold. I wanted to start a new chapter in my life and find a promising career before it was too late. I was shocked and disappointed to learn that my college degree was almost obsolete in the United States. I lacked qualifications, work experience and was totally out of touch with modern office technology that is almost a pre-requisite in today's workplace. I knew then that in order to enter the workforce and start a successful career, I would have to first acquire the necessary qualifications through education, familiarize myself with computer skills and learn everything I could about office technology. My objectives were quite clear; I wanted a career that would encompass all the interests and passions in my life and make the most of all my potential abilities. It had to be mentally stimulating, challenging and rewarding. Above all, I wanted my skills to be used for helping people make their lives better in some capacity. Last, but not the least, I wanted job security and financial freedom.

I have always had an interest in both politics and law. After careful consideration and research, I realized that the most expedient way for me to become involved in the legal profession was to pursue a career as a paralegal. I enrolled myself in a local college. Upon graduating from this program, I look forward to embarking on a new and exciting career as a productive member of a legal team. One of the many key factors that attracted me to paralegal studies is the versatility of this profession. My research showed that paralegals are not merely confined to working in law offices; their services are often needed in government agencies, corporations, financial institutions, real estate, community service agencies and even the entertainment business. I was excited to have

finally found a profession that would make the optimum use of my multi-tasking and organizational abilities and also my knowledge of foreign languages. Since paralegals perform various duties that differ from one organization to another, I would learn new and challenging things all the time and never experience boredom. I could explore all my options until I find what works the best for me.

Due to the ever increasing demands of the legal profession, many busy attorneys and prospective employers are beginning to realize how much time and money is saved by delegating many time consuming tasks to qualified paralegals. As a result, the opportunities for growth and advancement in the paralegal field are tremendous and show no signs of slowing down. It is important to know that by increasing my qualifications and taking exams I can compete for the best opportunities in the job market. Many law firms offer internship programs to students or entry-level positions to graduates, which not only gets them a foot in the door, but provides valuable work experience and on-the-job training. With greater experience, paralegals are often promoted to higher positions with greater responsibilities and increases in salary. It is gratifying to know that I can go aspire to reach greater heights in this profession through dedication and hard work.

It is clear that paralegals are the direct liaison between the attorneys and their clients. I really enjoy working closely with people and knowing that in a very small way I am helping them in resolving their legal problems. I hope that I may be able to use my skills in helping the poor, the aged, and those in need of legal assistance at some point in my career. I truly believe that being of service to someone who deserves it most will probably give me the greatest joy in the world.