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Paralegal Membership Grandparent Provision To Expire

Spread the word! The grandparent provision for paralegal membership in the Indiana State Bar Association will close on July 1. This grandparent provision enables paralegals to apply for membership with a waiver from the educational requirements.

To qualify for the waiver, the applicant needs work experience consisting of not less than 70 percent of substantive legal work performed for a minimum of five years in the previous 10 years in the employ of an attorney, law office, corporation, government agency or other entity, while performing specifically delegated substantive legal work for which an attorney is ultimately responsible, and absent such paralegal, the attorney would perform the task. An attorney affidavit of work experience must be attached to the application for membership.

After July 1, the following minimum educational criteria must be met for paralegal membership:

1. A bachelor's degree with a minimum of 12 hours of undergraduate study of law or paralegal studies from an institutionally accredited paralegal program; or
2. A bachelor's degree and a paralegal certificate from an institutionally accredited paralegal program; or
3. A bachelor's degree plus at least two years paralegal experience; or
4. An associate's degree in paralegal studies or a certificate in paralegal studies from an institutionally accredited paralegal program plus at least two years paralegal experience; or
5. Paralegal Advanced Competency Exam (PACE) or Certified Legal Assistant/Certified Paralegal Exam (CLA/CP) accreditation is in good standing; or
6. Paralegal work experience (as defined in Section 1 (A)) in five of the previous 10 year in which the paralegal has completed 6 hours of continuing legal education (CLE) and 1 hour of ethics during each year of qualifying work experience.

As a member of the ISBA, paralegals enjoy the benefits of membership, which include its publications (Res Gestae and Addendum, the substantive journal of the Indiana State Bar and membership newsletter, respectively), CLE, a subscription for unlimited use of Casemaker for legal research, as well as other services and discounts. It is also an opportunity to network with paralegals and attorneys from all over the state, serve on the various committees and sections of ISBA, and attend its meetings and seminars at a member rate.

Don't delay! For an application, visit the ISBA Web site at <http://www.inbar.org/content/news/article.asp?art=87>.