

Attorney Spot Light: Gregory P. LaMonaca, Esquire



Gregory P. LaMonaca, Esquire.
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Gregory P. LaMonaca, Esquire

The Law Office of Gregory P. LaMonaca, P.C. has come a long way from its humble beginnings almost 18 years ago. For starters, what used to be just Greg and his paralegal, Kristy Panella, has blossomed into a busy family law-oriented firm with seven attorneys and four support staff, including two certified paralegals. The firm handles a variety of cases from basic divorce and custody cases to more complicated cases, including cases dealing with international abduction. In addition to family law, the firm also handles some personal injury and criminal defense matters.

Since the inception of Greg’s practice over 18 years ago, he has always employed paralegals. The reason for same is based upon what he has found to be exceptional training and education leading up to the achievement of a paralegal degree or certification. Greg has hired individuals from several local paralegal schools and has found them all to be outstanding. He says, “While for the most part, anyone can be considered a ‘legal secretary,’ to be a paralegal requires participation and completion of extensive training to obtain this most coveted degree. As such, this designation represents to me that an

individual has worked very hard to achieve this status.” While clearly a paralegal must demonstrate a proficiency consistent with their legal profession, some of the more desirable skills Greg looks for in a paralegal include a strong work ethic, professionalism, accountability, loyalty, people skills, and someone who is looking for a long-term career as opposed to simply a “job.”

Greg stands very firm by his assertion that both of his paralegals are exceptional and “above and beyond” others in the industry. His selection process is multi-leveled, intense, and is designed to ensure that the individuals that are ultimately offered a paralegal position with Greg’s firm are qualified to be in that position. He requires his paralegals to work tirelessly on behalf of his clients. “My paralegals go above and beyond customer service,” he says. “On any given day, dozens of calls could come through the office from highly emotionally charged clients who are in the middle of tumultuous legal proceedings. My paralegals are the first individuals these clients speak with. My paralegals make our clients feel calm, welcome, and at ease in our firm.”

Greg believes that having paralegals in his firm over the years has contributed to the success of his firm.

“Every role within my law firm is a critical one that contributes to the success of the firm,” Greg says. “The dedicated, hardworking, and passionate paralegals that work for my firm represent key parts of the overall functioning and success of my firm. Our firm works as a team where no one member is above any other. We go by the adage that the ‘whole is worth more than the sum of the parts.’”

Greg believes that the paralegal profession has a great outlook for the future. Over the years since he has started his practice, he has seen a change in the requirements for the profession. While many of the major law firms have dedicated paralegals that perform paralegal-associated jobs such as research, case management, and the like, with the downsizing of many of the major law firms, what he has seen in the small to mid-sized firms such as his own, the paralegal role is more extensive. Beyond the classical paralegal jobs, paralegals are looked upon to handle and perform many roles and functions within the traditional law firm. With firms like Greg’s interested in, and relying on, certified paralegals, it seems that the paralegal profession has nowhere to go but up.

--Sarah Babiarz, Paralegal