

A paralegal with a law degree

As a paralegal with a law degree, Amy Fleischer brings a unique perspective to her job at Ragsdale Liggett in Raleigh.

A litigation paralegal, Fleischer primarily works on insurance defense cases and loves her work for its variety and complexity.

“In the course of my day, I might be doing anything from reviewing medical records in a slip and fall case to reviewing field reports in a case involving a large construction project, to researching media coverage of a school shooting,” she says. “I have worked on cases involving everything from hog farms to dog bites. It’s a cliché, but no two days are ever alike.”

Born at Camp LeJeune, Fleischer’s family lived in Asheboro, NC and Greenville, SC, before moving to Raleigh during her freshman year of high school. She graduated from NC State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Philosophy and completed the Legal Assistant Program (now Paralegal Program) at Meredith College in 1995. After working as a paralegal for a few years, she went on to Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law in Washington, DC and received her law degree in 2001. She passed the Virginia Bar exam but rather than enter a law practice, she stuck with her career as a paralegal.

Fleischer’s husband is also an attorney with an active construction law practice in Durham.

“With my husband working long hours, it worked better for our family for me to continue working as a paralegal instead of both of us being attorneys,” she says. “Also, I took the Virginia bar exam after graduating from law school and have no interest in taking another one.”

Career journey: When I graduated from NC State with a Philosophy degree, I had no idea what I wanted to do for a living. During college, I had worked part-time as a runner for an attorney’s office, so a friend suggested that I look into becoming a paralegal. I completed the Legal Assistant Program at Meredith College while working full-time at Barnes & Noble. I have always loved reading and doing research, so the skills and tasks of paralegal work were a good fit for my interests. In my first paralegal position, I worked as a paralegal on a large document review project. Several of the other paralegals were in the process of applying to law school. I had never considered going to law school, but I thought that I was just as capable as they were, so I decided to apply.

My desktop: My desk has various notepads and sticky notes with to-do lists and reminders in my never-ending effort to become more efficient and organized. I also have stacks of documents and folders for the cases I am currently working on. I would love to be paperless, but some tasks are just simpler with paper. In my office, I have photos of my family and our dogs. My favorite thing on my desk is a Mother’s Day card my son made for me in first grade, my evidence that at one point, he thought I was a “real cool mom.”



Amy Fleischer

Work inspiration: My co-workers are some of my best friends. On stressful days, it’s so nice to have people around you that you know will have your back and that you know will get your jokes. Also, knowing that I am helping our clients is very important to me. I always try to keep in mind that our clients are depending on us to help guide them through a difficult process. The issues that we deal with in litigation are things we see every day, but most people have no personal experience with the legal system, so I try to be there to offer reassurance and to make the process less stressful.

Work-life balance: My husband is an attorney, so we understand each other’s work challenges well. I am grateful to work have worked in firms that value work/life balance. They have always been supportive and understanding when I’ve had to miss work to do mom things or handle emergencies at home. One advantage to being a paralegal instead of an attorney is that for the most part, you are able to leave your work at the office at the end of the day.

Influential mentors: I have been fortunate to have the opportunity to work with so many great firms and attorneys in my career. The attorneys I currently work with at Ragsdale Liggett have such a breadth of expertise and experience and I am always learning from them.

Mary Webb in particular has been a great mentor to me. I admire her relentless work ethic, the relationships she develops with clients and colleagues, and how she manages such a large and diverse case load while being a supportive and involved mom herself.

During downtime: When I’m not working, I enjoy reading, traveling with my family, and seeing live music. My 16-year-old son is a drummer and has a band with some friends, so I especially love seeing him play.

- Teri Saylor

”

I have always loved reading and doing research, so the skills and tasks of paralegal work were a good fit for my interests. In my first paralegal position, I worked as a paralegal on a large document review project. Several of the other paralegals were in the process of applying to law school. I had never considered going to law school, but I thought that I was just as capable as they were, so I decided to apply.

CAROLINA PARALEGAL NEWS

PUBLISHER

LIZ IRWIN
Publisher
lirwin@bridgetowermedia.com

EDITORIAL

JASON THOMAS, Interim Editor

HAVILAND STEWART, Staff Writer
hstewart@nclawyersweekly.com

SCOTT BAUGHMAN, Digital Media Manager
sbaughman@nclawyersweekly.com

ADVERTISING

SHEILA BATIE-JONES,
Advertising Account Executive
sheila.batie-jones@nclawyersweekly.com

ACCOUNTING & ADMINISTRATIVE

MICHAEL MCARTHUR, Business Manager
mmcarthur@bridgetowermedia.com

PRODUCTION & OPERATIONS

JOHN RENO, Production Manager
john.reno@molawyersweekly.com

© 2022 Carolina Paralegal News. Material may not be republished, resold, recorded, or used in any manner, in whole or in part, without the publisher’s explicit consent. Any infringement will be subject to legal redress.

Established 2007
Circulation to SC and NC Paralegals

Published bi-monthly by
North Carolina Lawyers Weekly
and South Carolina Lawyers Weekly
1-800-876-5297

Questions or comments:
1-800-876-5297

Carolina Paralegal News is published bi-monthly by North Carolina Lawyers Weekly, 130 North McDowell Street, Unit B, Charlotte, NC 28204, and South Carolina Lawyers Weekly.

