

SOMEONE YOU SHOULD KNOW



CATHERINE ANTOLEC
*2012 Paralegal
Certificate Graduate*

"The road to a successful Legal Assistant career was both rewarding and a challenge," according to Catherine Antolec, an August 2012 Paralegal Certificate graduate. Catherine began her academic career at Northern Illinois University and majored in Child Development, Parent/Infant Specialist. She earned a Bachelor's degree and soon began working at KinderCare Learning Center as a Pre-K Teacher. "I always loved kids," stated Catherine. Her sister is a teacher for the Chicago Public School system and Catherine thought that would be a great career path for her as well. "I always was involved with children. Even in high school I was conducting summer camps," says Catherine.

After teaching for several years at KinderCare Learning Center, many internal conflicts arose within the company and Catherine thought long and hard about staying there. "It was hard thinking about leaving the children and parents. It is so inspiring to watch a child grow and develop year after year," stated Catherine.

Catherine decided to look into the legal field since she always had an interest in law and decided she needed a career change. "I wanted an ABA accredited school and I wanted to come in the evening so I could continue working," stated Catherine. She chose Northwestern College and loved the experience. "The teachers were great, especially Mr. Ruffin, who is a practicing attorney. I loved the lively open discussions and interactions with the teachers and students," commented Catherine.

After completing her paralegal externship with Chittenden, Murday & Novotny, LLC, in downtown Chicago, and working full-time at KinderCare Learning Center, Catherine was armed with skills and experience and ready to launch a legal career. She was hired at Odelson & Sterk as a Legal Assistant and loves the variety of working in Worker's Compensation, Real Estate and Insurance Defense/Personal Injury. "I love coming to work, it's like one

big family. I am able to accomplish a variety of tasks in different areas of law while working for several different attorneys. I think I have found my niche in insurance defense and litigation," stated Catherine.

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Her advice to all alumni and current students is "If it's something you want, just do it. You have to make a change and go for your goals and have no regrets." Catherine stated.

Catherine is thinking about continuing her education and pursuing a law degree. She is a member of the Illinois Paralegal Association (IPA).

