

EILEEN MULRENIN, '10 GRADUATE



I earned my Bachelor of Fine Arts from the U of I Urbana-Champaign in December 2008. I spent some time out of work, because I wanted to learn some new skills in order to make myself more employable. A family member of mine had worked as a paralegal for many years and recommended Roosevelt University's Paralegal Studies Program. I highly recommend Roosevelt's paralegal program! The instructors in the program were very supportive! My first job out of the program was a part-time paralegal position at the Lawyers' Committee for Better Housing, the same organization where I did my internship through Roosevelt's program. LCBH really liked my performance during the internship and by a stroke of fortune had a gap in the legal support office to fill. I am still at LCBH; the only difference is that I have been promoted to a full-time paralegal. At LCBH I am a "jack of all trades." I assist in drafting pleadings, discovery materials and motions, I draft correspondence, assist in new client intake by conducting interviews, keep the office and client files organized and up to date, docket court dates and maintain the weekly court schedule, assist in creating weekly reports of Chicago apartment building foreclosures, assist in creating monthly reports of the organization's work for funding purposes, and file at the Daley Center. My advice for working as a paralegal is to be flexible and willing — understand that sometimes you may have to do things outside of your "job description" but those that do so and do so without complaining are remembered and appreciated. It is also my opinion that you need to be able to multi-task. I enjoy keeping busy. My hands are never idle and there's always a new interesting and engaging case coming in! Working in the legal aid community is very rewarding - knowing that many of our clients would lose their homes unjustly if it weren't for the work we do, is priceless. I plan to continue to advance my paralegal career, striving for supervisory roles within my organization after gaining some managerial skills. When I'm not working, I like to go back to my first love which is the arts! I enjoy spending time in museums, exploring galleries, watching live theater and going to concerts. I, also, love eating good food and trying new restaurants. Please support your local legal aid organizations! Whether it be donations of cash, supplies, or volunteer hours, organizations like LCBH thrive because of people who care and who want to make a difference in Chicago!