Following a review of the history of the legal assistant profession and the present status of legal assistant education, this document reports a study of the need for a legal assistant program at Kellogg Community College (KCC). A survey questionnaire was distributed to 106 private attorneys, financial institutions, businesses and industries, insurance companies, and judges and prosecuting attorneys within the KCC service area. Forty-eight responses were received (45.3 percent). Twenty respondents indicated that they currently employ at least one legal assistant, and a total of 40 legal assistants are currently employed by all respondents. Only six of these 40 have had formal training. Thirty of the respondents indicated that they would consider employing a trained legal assistant. It was estimated that 33 legal assistant positions would become available within the next five years. Based on the results of the survey, and evaluations of resource, facility, budget, and curriculum requirements, it was recommended that the proposed legal assistant program be implemented. The survey results are appended, along with a proposed curriculum outline and course descriptions. (NHM)
LEGAL ASSISTANT

A Study

KELLOGG COMMUNITY COLLEGE

BATTLE CREEK, MICHIGAN
THE LEGAL ASSISTANT

A study prepared for the approval of the Board of Trustees, Kellogg Community College

Dr. Dominic S. Cannatti, Chairman
Mr. Michael J. Rae, Vice-President
Dr. Allan J. Weenink, Secretary
Mr. Louis T. Perry, Treasurer
Mrs. Elizabeth H. Binda, Trustee
Mr. Edward J. Swan, Trustee
Mr. Morris Stulberg, Trustee

Dr. Richard F. Whitmore, President
Dr. James E. Cook, Executive Vice-President

and

for the review of

the Michigan Department of Education, Vocational-Technical Education Service

December, 1975
THE LEGAL ASSISTANT

A study prepared under the direction of the Legal Assistant Advisory Committee, Kellogg Community College.

Ms. Judy Bardo
Mr. Donald Beran
Mr. Thomas R. Blaising
Ms. Antoinette Carrigan
Mr. William Coash
Hon. Creighton Coleman
Mr. James Fisher
Mr. John Harper
Mr. Christopher J. McNaughton
Mrs. Karen Owens
Mrs. Olive Pessetti
Mr. John J. Rae
Mrs. Bettie Sims
Dr. Robert D. Steely
Mr. Eugene Verrette

by

Robert D. Steely, Director, Occupational Programming
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CHAPTER I

Introduction:

During the fall and winter months of 1974, the College Director of Occupational Programming held several informal meetings with representatives of the legal profession and college student personnel staff members. The purpose of these meetings was to explore the interest, the need, and the potential for the possible development of a Legal Assistant Associate Degree Program. It was concluded from these meetings that the college should appoint an advisory committee. The task of the committee would be to conduct a formal study of need and based upon the study results, determine whether or not curriculum development should proceed.

In January, 1975, advisory committee members were identified. The advisory committee membership (Appendix A) was selected so that the following organizations would be represented: (1) Calhoun County Legal Secretaries Association; (2) Calhoun County Bar Association; (3) the judiciary branch of government; (4) the Legal Aid Society of Calhoun County; (5) the banking business; (6) the insurance business; and (7) industrial corporations.

In February, 1975, the advisory committee was appointed. The first meeting was held during the month of March. A study of the need for a Legal Assisting Program at Kellogg Community College was conducted during the spring and summer of 1975. As a result of the study, it was concluded that an Associate Degree Curriculum could be justified in terms of need. An endorsement of the advisory committee endeavors in the legal assistant curriculum.
development was given by the Executive Committee of Calhoun County Bar Association and the Calhoun County Legal Secretaries Association. The correspondence indicating endorsement is provided in Appendix B.

Chapter II of this document discusses the legal assistant from a historical perspective and also the education of a legal assistant. Chapter III discusses the need for legal assistants and details the study results conducted by the Kellogg Community College Legal Assisting Advisory Committee. The evaluation of the feasibility of implementing an Associate Degree Legal Assistant Program is contained in Chapter III. Chapter V sets forth the recommendations for a Legal Assisting Program at Kellogg Community College.
CHAPTER II

The Legal Assistant

Definition

A paralegal is a person with legal skills who works under the direction of an attorney or who is otherwise authorized by law to use these skills.¹

The term "paralegal" in the above statement is used synonymously with such terms as legal paraprofessional and legal assistant. Legal assistant is the term selected to be descriptive of the legal auxiliary discussed in this study.

It should be noted that there is a clear distinction between the legal assistant and the legal secretary. This distinction is evidenced by the fact that legal assistants (a) have separate job descriptions, (b) earn higher salaries, (c) are assigned different office space, (d) have college degrees (associate), (e) do not perform stenographic duties, (f) attend departmental meetings, (g) do research, (h) interview clients, (i) delegate to stenographers, (j) are not compensated for overtime, and (k) are entitled to bonuses.²

Historical Information

Over the years many of the professionals have created paraprofessionals to perform many of the routine duties that were formerly within the province of


the professional. This is true in the medical profession, dental profession, education profession, and the accounting profession. Even ministers have their pastors of visitation and youth directors. Until recently the legal profession has overlooked the potential of utilizing paraprofessionals other than the legal secretary. In August, 1968, the American Bar Association recommended "that the legal profession recognize that freeing a lawyer from tedious and routine detail, thus conserving his time and energy for truly legal problems, will enable him to render his professional service to more people, thereby making many legal services more fully available to the public," with the further recommendation that:

1. The legal profession recognize that there are many tasks in serving a client's needs which can be performed by a trained nonlawyer assistant working under the direction and supervision of a lawyer;

2. The profession encourage the training and employment of such assistants; and

3. There be created a special committee of this Association to consider the subject of lay assistants for lawyers.

This recommendation resulted in the appointment of the Special Committee on Lay Assistants for Lawyers (renamed the Special Committee on Legal Assistants in February, 1971), which was directed to consider:

---

1. The kinds of tasks which may be competently performed by a nonlawyer working under the direction and supervision of a lawyer;

2. The nature of the training which may be required and provided to develop confidence and proficiency in the performance of such tasks;

3. The role, if any, to be played by the legal profession and the bar in providing such training;

4. The desirability of recognizing competence and proficiency in such assistants as by academic recognition or other suitable means; and

5. All appropriate methods for developing, encouraging and increasing the training and utilization of nonlawyer assistants, the better to enable lawyers to discharge their professional responsibilities.

The first year was devoted to investigation with the result that the committee felt the profession now seeks the assistance of additional legal paraprofessionals. Their recommendations concerning the training and use of paraprofessionals are based on two conclusions:

1. There is a need for greater utilization of nonlawyers in the law office;

2. Nonlawyers are capable of functioning on several levels of proficiency and responsibility in the law office.

The committee developed a proposal as guidelines for the functions and duties, level of education, and curriculum for the legal assistant. This proposal
resulted in the "Guidelines for the Approval of Legal Assistant Education Programs" approved by the American Bar Association's House of Delegates on August 7, 1973.

According to William P. Statsky, a number of factors and forces have brought paralegalism to its present state of prominence. Among these are:

1. Economics - Firms that employ legal assistants are more profitable than all-lawyer firms.

2. Efficiency - A lawyer's duties include a wide range of tasks involving extensive, medium, and minimal complexity. Tasks that are of minimal and possibly medium complexity may often be delegated to legal assistants.

3. Restructuring of the Professions Generally - Paralegalism represents this phenomenon within the legal profession that have hitherto taken place in other professions such as medicine, dentistry, education, and the clergy.

4. Schools - The growth of community colleges in the 1960's has resulted in the availability of public education to train paralegals.

5. Conferences - Two important national conferences: (1) July, 1970 conference on legal paraprofessionals sponsored by the Office of Economic Opportunity; and (2) June, 1971 conference on paralegals cosponsored by the American Bar Association and the Council on Law Related Studies.

---

6. Organizations - In 1968, the House of Delegates of the American Bar Association founded the Special Committee on Legal Assistants. In 1972, the Office of Economic Opportunity created the National Paralegal Institute to develop paralegal strategies in the publicly funded neighborhood legal service offices.

7. The Promise of Expanding Legal Services - Attention is being given to paralegals in hope that they might assist the lawyer in making his services more widely available.

**Education of the Legal Assistant**

Legal assistant educational programs are offered in many different educational institutions. The vast majority are offered in junior and community colleges. In addition, these educational programs are offered in law schools, four-year colleges, adult education and university extension schools, and in proprietary schools. In Michigan, programs to prepare legal assistants are offered at Grand Valley State College, Ferris State College, and in the continuing education division at Oakland University. In addition, the following community colleges offer programs: Lansing, Macomb, and Mott.

The time duration of legal assistant programs vary. They range from one year certificate programs to four year baccalaureate programs. The majority of those in community colleges are two year associate degree programs. The American Bar Association, "Guidelines for the Approval of Legal Assistant Education Programs", state a minimum of sixty (60) semester hours of credit or ninety (90) quarter hours of credit. This implies a two year program.
In 1974, the U.S. Office of Education awarded $400,000 to the American Association of Junior and Community Colleges to develop and implement paralegal programs at six community colleges located throughout the nation. This is a four year project which will result in curriculum development, program implementation, and evaluation and completion of guidelines exemplifying a model curriculum for paralegal programs in the community college.

The American Association of Junior and Community Colleges indicated that there were sixty-one (61) two year colleges offering courses concerned with legal services in 1974. Most of these courses were related to legal secretarial service or business law. The association further indicated in 1974 that two year colleges have not developed paralegal programs to meet the expectations of the legal profession or the needs of the public. During the past several months, however, there has been a considerable increase in the number of legal assistant programs offered by community colleges.
CHAPTER III

The Need for Legal Assistants

The State and National Perspective

There is a growing demand by the public at large for legal services. As a result, the need for trained personnel in law offices will continue to expand in the future. Some studies indicate that fifteen to twenty-five percent of the work performed in law offices can be delegated to paraprofessionals without reducing the quality of the services rendered. The American Bar Association is advocating the utilization of legal assistants. James D. Fellers, President of the American Bar Association, stated in April, 1975, that "paralegals are an absolutely essential component of quality legal services in the future." He added that lawyers who fail to utilize legal assistants to perform nonlawyer tasks are not providing their clients with the most efficient service, and consequently, "the costs of legal services are higher than they need to be. They are also higher than we can allow them to remain."2

Because of the fact that the legal assistant profession is an emerging one, state and national data reflecting manpower needs are not available. There are indications, however, that the field has great promise. This is indicated by the rapid increase in articles concerning the legal assistant being


published in both professional journals and lay magazines. It appears that there will be an increasing demand nationally for trained legal assistants to work in private law firms, in trust departments of banks, in insurance companies, and in government agencies.

The Local Perspective

In order to assess the need for and the interest in a legal assistant program at Kellogg Community College, a study was conducted to gather information from members of the legal profession who were identified as being potential employers of legal assistants. The study sought not only to obtain information concerning the current level of utilization of legal assistants but also to determine the future need for legal assistants, the employment potential, and information about the tasks that would be assigned to legal assistants as perceived by those completing the questionnaire.

The survey questionnaire was distributed to private attorneys, financial institutions, business and industries, insurance companies, and judges and prosecuting attorneys within the Kellogg Community College service area. A total of one hundred six questionnaires were mailed. Forty-eight (48) responses representing forty-five and three tenths percent (45.3%) of the questionnaires were received. The following were revealed as a result of the study:

1. Twenty (20) of the forty-eight (48) respondents indicated that they currently employ a person or persons to perform the functions of a legal assistant.
2. A total of forty (40) persons are currently employed as legal assistants in the college service area.

3. Only six (6) of those functioning as legal assistants have had formal training. The others were trained "on-the-job".

4. Thirty (30) of the forty-eight (48) respondents indicated that they would consider employing a trained legal assistant. Eight (8) of the respondents indicated that they would not.

5. The number of legal assistant positions available are:

<table>
<thead>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>in 4 years</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in 5 years</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6. The estimated annual salary ranged from $7,000 to $15,000.

The Legal Assistant Advisory Committee discussed at length the interpretation of the survey results. Of major concern was the low response rate (45.3%). It was concluded that a follow-up to increase the rate of return would not be worth the additional effort required. It was also concluded that the low response rate does not necessarily indicate a lack of interest in the program or a lack of need for legal assistants. Further, the committee felt that since the job of the legal assistant is an emerging occupation, that the legal community in general is not sufficiently knowledgeable about the role of the legal assistant to adequately respond to the questionnaire in spite of the effort to identify this legal auxiliary. The committee expressed strong feelings
that a need does indeed exist and that there will in the future be an increasing

demand for trained legal assistants. The literature reviewed supports this

position. Finally, the endorsement of the development of a Legal Assistant

Program by the Executive Committee of the Calhoun County Bar Association

and the Calhoun County Legal Secretaries Association convinced the advisory

committee that they should proceed with curriculum development.

Appendix C contains the Report of the Results of a Study to Determine

the Need for an Associate Degree Legal Assistant Program at Kellogg Community

College. Included in the above named report is a copy of the questionnaire, and

copies of three letters received as a response to the questionnaire.
CHAPTER IV
Evaluation of Feasibility

Placement Opportunities for Graduates

According to a survey conducted in 1972 by the Special Committee on Legal Assistants of the American Bar Association, legal assistants were employed by private law firms, government, banks, corporations, and by a professional trade association. Legal departments in insurance companies as well as social services such as legal aid societies also afford placement opportunities.

The median salary paid to legal assistants as determined in the 1972 survey mentioned above was $8,550. Large law firms (15 or more attorneys) paid legal assistants at a higher rate and employed more of them than did smaller law firms.

Although the study of need conducted in the college service area did indicate placement opportunities, the number of opportunities could be considered marginal at the present time. It must be reiterated, however, that this is an emerging occupation and as the legal community experiences and becomes more knowledgeable about the services that a trained legal assistant can provide, increasing employment opportunities will become available.

Clients to be Served

The Legal Assistant Program will serve both in-service students and pre-service students. In-service students are those who are currently employed in the legal field whereas the pre-service students are those who
have no prior experiences related to the legal field. It is the opinion of the Advisory Committee that the majority of those persons enrolling in the program during its first few years of operation will be in-service students. These are persons who are currently employed as legal secretaries and who desire to upgrade themselves to become legal assistants. Subsequently, as the program continues, it is expected that an increasing number of pre-service students will be attracted.

From the job market point of view, the anticipated clients to be served is a desirable combination. This is because the in-service students for the most part will not be seeking employment upon completion of the program but will continue with the same employer in a legal assisting capacity. Likewise, since legal assisting is an emerging occupation, the job market is expected to increase as the program serves a greater number of pre-service students.

Curriculum and Courses

A considerable amount of research was done prior to curriculum development. The American Bar Association, the Michigan Bar Association, and the American Association of Junior and Community Colleges are the professional organizations that have been contacted and that have provided information for curriculum development. In addition twenty-three community colleges scattered throughout the nation were contacted to secure curriculum information.

Two publications, Guidelines for the Approval of Legal Assistant Education Programs and Proposed Curriculum for Training of Law Office
Personnel were furnished by the American Bar Association. The Michigan Bar Association has recently appointed a Committee on Legal Assistants. Contact has been made with the chairman of this committee to determine if any of their activities would impact the legal assistant curriculum. Although this committee has not resolved any of their concerns, they are addressing certification and/or licensing issues for legal assistants. Concurrent with that is accreditation of legal assistant educational programs. Mr. Joel Krisoff, committee chairman, indicated that compliance with the ABA "Guidelines" would satisfy any requirements that the Michigan Bar Association might impose.

Communications have been maintained throughout this program development process with the project Director and Assistant Director of the Paralegal Assistant Education Project sponsored by the USOE and administered by the American Association of Community and Junior Colleges. The materials developed to date in this national project have been provided.

The advisory committee received all of the curriculum materials gathered. At the same time, they developed goal statements (statements about what it is that the graduate should be able to do) to be used as a basis for curriculum development.

The curriculum recommended by the advisory committee along with course descriptions may be found in Appendix D.

Resource Requirements

The following resources are required to implement the Legal Assistant Program and to obtain the status of an approved school by the American Bar Association. These requirements comply with the Guidelines for the Approval of Legal Assistants Program.
1. Faculty - See Chapter V, Recommendations

   The program director and instructors must possess education, knowledge, and experience in the legal assistant field.*

   The program director shall be a full-time member of the faculty of the parent institution.*

   *Required for ABA approval.

2. Facility

   A classroom that will accommodate the lecture-discussion mode of instruction will be required.

   Classroom furniture should consist of tables and chairs to permit students to work with software in the classroom.

   In addition, space should be provided in the Learning Resources Center to accommodate a legal library and to permit legal research.

3. Instructional Equipment and Instructional Materials

   No instructional equipment other than the furniture which is indicated in (2) above is required. Instructional materials consisting of a legal library is essential. A listing of the contents of the legal library is provided in Appendix E.
Budgetary Considerations

First year of operation:

Salaries - part time faculty at the prevailing overload rate established by the College Board of Trustees.

Fringe Benefits - Not applicable

Instructional Materials:

Legal Library $9,000 (est.)

Instructional Equipment - Not applicable

Facilities - Not applicable

Total $9,000*

*Does not include overload salary costs

Second year of operation:

Salaries - Full time program coordinator/instructor $16,000 (est.)

Additional part time faculty dependent upon program demands at prevailing overload rate.

Fringe Benefits - 24% of coordinator/instructor salary 3,840

Instructional Materials - Not applicable

Instructional Equipment - Not applicable

Facilities - Not applicable

Total $19,840*

*Does not include overload salary costs
CHAPTER V

Recommendations

It is recommended that this proposed Legal Assistant Program be approved by the Kellogg Community College Board of Trustees and be implemented beginning the 1976-77 school year and that approval for this implementation be sought from the Michigan Department of Education.

Specific Recommendations

1976-77 School Year

+ That the legal assistant courses be taught only at night to serve both in-service and pre-service persons,
+ That qualified part time faculty be employed to develop the technical course content and teach the technical courses.
+ That approximately $4,500 of capital funds be appropriated to purchase a legal library. (Vocational Education matching funds will support the other $4,500)
+ That this program be assigned to the Business and Technical Division for administrative purposes.
+ That shelving space be made available in the Learning Resources Center to house the legal library.
+ That a brochure be developed to publicize the program.
+ That this program be incorporated into all future college publications where applicable.
+ That information be distributed to the legal community within the college service area and to all college offices concerning the implementation of this curriculum.
That the college student personnel staff be given curriculum detail for

for student advisory purposes and so that they may assist in publicizing

the program.

1977-78 School Year

+ That a full time program coordinator/instructor be employed.

+ That legal assisting courses be taught both at day and at night if sufficient
demand exists

+ That preparations be made to obtain program approval by the American

Bar Association upon completion of the second year of operation.
APPENDIX A

LEGAL ASSISTANT

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP
LEGAL ASSISTANT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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Ms. Antoinette Carrigan
Howard and Howard
Attorneys at Law
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Judge, Circuit Court
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Public Relations Department
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Mrs. Olive Pessetti, PLS
c/o Anthony M. Calderone, Attorney
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Battle Creek, Michigan 49015
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Mr. John J. Rae
Prosecutor, Calhoun County
County Building - 315 W. Green St.
Marshall Michigan 49068
968-9811

KCC Staff

Mrs. Bettie Sims
Mr. Eugene Verrette
Dr. Robert D. Steely
APPENDIX B

PROGRAM ENDORSEMENTS

by

THE CALHOUN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

and

THE CALHOUN COUNTY LEGAL SECRETARIES ASSOCIATION
October 13, 1975

Kellogg Community College
Board of Trustees
450 North Avenue
Battle Creek, MI 49016

Dear Board Members:

The Executive Committee of the Calhoun County Bar Association is pleased that the Legal Assistant Advisory Committee under Dr. Robert D. Steely is considering the development of a legal assistant associate degree program.

The fact that the paralegal movement is rapidly gaining momentum, is reflected in the recognition by the legal profession that paralegals can assist in the more effective delivery of legal services and the resulting increase in the demand for this type of personnel.

We would endorse your endeavors in this area and would be pleased to assist in indentifying the specific competencies demanded and in designing a curricula to fulfill our present demands.

Very truly yours,

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CALHOUN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

Bryan C. Dandenault, President
December 3, 1975

Dr. Robert D. Steely  
Director, Occupational Programming  
Kellogg Community College  
450 North Avenue  
Battle Creek, Michigan 49016

Dear Dr. Steely:

Calhoun County Legal Secretaries Association is pleased that Kellogg Community College is considering the development of a Legal Assistant Associate Degree Program.

We have several members that have expressed an interest in pursuing this degree.

We wish to endorse your efforts in developing this program in the legal field, and offer the support of our organization.

We will be pleased to assist in any way that we can.

Sincerely yours,

Shirley Handy  
President

SH/el
APPENDIX C

REPORT OF THE RESULTS OF A STUDY TO DETERMINE THE NEED FOR AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE LEGAL ASSISTANT PROGRAM AT KELLOGG COMMUNITY COLLEGE
I. INTRODUCTION

The Office of the Director of Occupation Programming in cooperation with the Legal Assistant Advisory Committee elected to conduct a study of need in order to determine the feasibility of designing and recommending an associate degree program to prepare legal assistants.

II. METHODOLOGY

A preliminary draft of a questionnaire was developed during the winter of 1975. A sub-committee selected from the membership of the Legal Assisting Advisory Committee worked with the Director of Occupational Programming to refine the instrument and to present it to the entire Advisory Committee. After acceptance by the Committee and the preparation of a mailing list, the questionnaire along with an explanatory cover letter was prepared for mailing. The mailing list consisted of private attorneys, financial institutions, business and industries, insurance companies, judges and prosecuting attorneys all within the college's service area. One hundred six questionnaires accompanied by a cover letter explaining the purpose of the survey, an advisory committee membership listing, and a postage paid self addressed envelope were mailed on May 14, 1975. A copy of the cover letter, advisory committee membership listing, and the survey instrument are attached to this report.

Although the majority of the responses received were returned during the early part of June, the last response was received during the month of July, 1975. No effort was made to follow-up those who did not respond in order to secure a higher percentage of returns. It was felt that those who did
voluntarily respond to the questionnaire would provide sufficient information for committee decision making and that additional responses stimulated by follow-up contacts would not be sufficient to influence the survey results.

III. FINDINGS

Forty-eight, representing 45.3%, of the 106 questionnaires mailed were returned. One questionnaire was marked by the Post Office as undeliverable and was returned. This questionnaire is not included in the above count as being a return. An additional questionnaire was completed and returned without any identification of the respondent. This questionnaire was considered as a response and included in the above as a return.

TABLE I below indicates the number of mailings and the number and percentage of responses by categories.

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<th></th>
<th></th>
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<tr>
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<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Private Attorneys* B</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
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<td>Financial Institutions</td>
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<td>Insurance Companies</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Business and Industries</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<td>48</td>
<td>45.3</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

*The questionnaire returned without a signature is included in this category.
Below is a summation of the responses to the questions on the survey instrument by the category of the respondents. (Not all respondents answered all questions, this accounts for discrepancies in the totals).

**QUESTION #1**

Does your firm currently employ a person or persons to perform the functions of a legal assistant as defined above?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th>D*</th>
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<td>16</td>
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*See TABLE 1. for Category Code*

a) How many do you employ?

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b) How was this person trained?

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**QUESTION #2**

Tasks you would consider assigning to legal assistants

A. Law office administration

1. Supervising work flow

   a) non-attorney staff

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   b) attorney staff

<table>
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2. Personnel

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b) Develop and implement office policies and procedures

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3. Bookkeeping

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b) Paying Office Bills

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4. Maintain Law Library

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5. Supervising Purchasing of Office Memoranda

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6. Preparation of Office Memoranda

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7. Calendar Control

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### B. Information Gathering

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<td>5. Index Documents and Prepare Digests</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>6. Conduct Initial Client Interview</td>
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### C. Data Application/Document Preparation

Assisting in the preparation of the following

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<td>2. Make arrangements for depositions and hearings</td>
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### E. Appearances

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### F. General Functions

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### QUESTION #3

**If trained legal assistants were available, would your company consider hiring them?**

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</table>
a) When would you anticipate this position to be available?

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**QUESTION #4**

Estimation of annual salary you would offer

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<td>Ranges</td>
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**IV. COMMENTS**

Additional comments were not requested on the questionnaire. However, we did receive the following comments:

"Would not hire such a person - should have a four-year degree"...Attorney

"Program appears too ambitious for a two-year training program. Also, I doubt that it can be combined with general education in the time available (4 years)"...Attorney

"The program is not applicable to banks"...Bank of Albion

"Legal work is performed by private law firm. It is unlikely we would employ a legal assistant"...First Federal Savings and Loan

"This organization has no Trust Department and cannot have one under the present statutes"...Hastings Savings and Loan

"Do not have sufficient work of this type"...Federal Center

"We do not have a need for an individual with the education mentioned at the regional level"...State Farm Insurance
"We utilize the legal services of a local firm of attorneys. All functions therefore are not applicable"..... Twentieth Century Guardian Life Insurance Company

Attached hereto are three letters that were received in conjunction with the legal assistant study.
Kellogg Community College
450 North Avenue
Battle Creek, MI 49016

Gentlemen:

We are enclosing herewith our reply to the questionnaire which you sent us with the letter of May 6, 1975. The answers are somewhat tentative because the amount and kind of responsibilities delegated to a legal assistant will depend on that person's general educational background and training and other employment experience in addition to the training furnished by your proposed program. These considerations obviously have a very important bearing upon salary scales so we have not attempted to answer that question. As a matter of fact, we are not at the present time sure what salary scales freshly admitted attorneys command in private practice in this area.

We do wish to say that we are deeply interested in your effort to develop this program and if the program itself is successful, I am sure that competent graduates of the program will be in demand in this area and elsewhere.

Yours very truly,

Raymond R. Allen

RRA/msh
Enclosure
June 2, 1975

Kellogg Community College
450 North Avenue
Battle Creek, MI 49016

Dear Sirs:

I have grave doubts that this type of degree is appropriate for employees of the 10th District Courts. This is especially true since we have no research clerks. In particular, the Court Administrator should have a degree in that field. Furthermore, the magistrates are required to have some knowledge of criminal statutes and the law surrounding the area of arrests and searches. The office of administrator and magistrates require special knowledge and skill. The other employees of our Court are basically clerks and typists and are not para-legal in nature.

I hope this information, though negative, is of help to you.

Yours very truly,

Alfonso A. Magnotta
Tenth District Judge

AAM/nl
Mr. Robert D. Steely, Director  
Occupational Programming  
Kellogg Community College  
450 North Avenue  
Battle Creek, Michigan 49016

Dear Mr. Steely:

Your questionnaire concerning the use of legal assistants in law offices does not quite fit the use of legal assistants in the court structure. For this reason I thought I would write you concerning the situation in this Court.

Currently we employ a Register of Probate, two Deputy Registers of Probate, and one Court Reporter who also acts as a deputy register of probate when not engaged in the court reporting work.

All four of these people have had and are receiving special training in their duties in connection with the court work. They also frequently consult with the secretaries of the various lawyers and notify the various lawyers that reports are due in connection with matters being handled in the court.

It would be only fair to say also that frequently these four ladies advise the Judge that he should complete certain tasks, or that he should review some order entered to make certain that it complies with all of the legal requirements.

The training program for these people has been handled in part by the Judge, in a large measure by the Register of Probate, and by a court reporter who gave special training to the lady serving as our Court Stenographer.

In addition to the training given locally, we have certain training given to the clerical staff by the Court Administrator's Office which conducts two-day seminars once a year for the benefit of the Register of Probate and her chief deputy.

It is unlikely that this office will have need of additional clerical personnel during the next two years.
Whenever there is a need for additional clerical personnel, probably the persons employed will be those who have had experience working in law offices or have had experience working in other courts.

I suggest that you inquire of the Court Administrator's Office at Lansing concerning the possibility of providing courses of instruction for court personnel in the various courts. Such training might very well fit in with the training of legal assistants for lawyers.

Sincerely yours,

Philip H. Mitchell
Judge of Probate

PHM:av
May 6, 1975

Dear Sir:

Interest has been expressed to Kellogg Community College in the development of a Legal Assistant Associate Degree Program. Programs of this type are being developed in community colleges throughout the nation. This effort is encouraged by the American Bar Association, who has developed some rather broad guidelines for legal assistant programs.

The college is working with an Advisory Committee made up of your colleagues in the legal profession to study the need for this educational program. The study is being conducted in Kellogg Community College's service area. Important factors in this study are the employment opportunities for legal assistants, the salary level, and the functions which legal assistants may be assigned.

The Advisory committee has developed the enclosed questionnaire. You were selected by the committee to respond on behalf of your organization. Your response will assist the committee in establishing direction for legal assistant education at Kellogg Community College. If you are unable to timely complete the questionnaire, please forward it to another attorney in your organization. All individual responses will be kept confidential. The information provided will appear in summary data only.

Enclosed is a postage paid self-addressed envelope. I shall appreciate your cooperation in completing and returning the questionnaire at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Robert D. Steely
Director, Occupational Programming

RDS:mp
SUGGESTED DEFINITION: A legal assistant is a person with legal skills who works under the supervision of an attorney. This paraprofessional is able to apply knowledge of law and legal procedures in rendering direct assistance to lawyers engaged in legal research; design, develop or plan modifications of new procedures, techniques, services, processes or applications; prepare or interpret legal documents and write detailed procedures for practicing in certain fields of law; select, compile and use technical information from such references as digests, encyclopedias or practice manuals; and analyze and follow procedural problems that involve independent decisions. He or she may be employed in a private attorney's office, in corporation law, in the banking industry, in the insurance field, in the judicial branch of government, in legal aid societies, in public defender's offices, or in governmental agencies.

1. Does your firm currently employ a person or persons to perform the functions of a legal assistant as defined above?

   YES _____

   NO _____

IF YES:
   a. How many do you employ? _____
   b. How was this person trained?
      On the job _____
      Formal program _____
      Other __________

2. CATEGORIZATION OF POSSIBLE LEGAL ASSISTANT FUNCTIONS:

Check the tasks which you would consider assigning to legal assistants:
(if the task indicated is not applicable to your office, please indicate by writing "NA" in the parenthesis following the task)

A. Law Office Administration

   1. Supervising work flow of:
      a) non-attorney staff ...........................( )
      b) attorney staff ............................( )

   2. Personnel:
      a) Hiring, evaluating and supervising non-attorney staff ( )
      b) Develop and implement office policies and procedures
eq. sick leave, vacations, personal leave, etc. ......( )
3. Bookkeeping:
   a) Payroll.................................( )
   b) Paying office bills.........................( )
   c) Accounts receivable control...............( )
   d) Preparing fee and disbursement
       client statements............................( )

4. Maintain Law Library..............................................( )
5. Supervising Purchasing of Office
   Materials and Supplies.............................................( )
6. Preparation of Office Memoranda.................................( )
7. Calendar Control.................................................( )
   Other ________________________________________________________________________________

B. Information Gathering

   1. Legal Research..................................................( )
   2. Obtain Information from Clients..............................( )
   3. Investigations....................................................( )
   4. Shepardize.........................................................( )
   5. Index Documents and Prepare Digests..........................( )
   6. Conduct Initial Client Interview..............................( )
   7. Search and Check Public Records..................................( )
   8. Statement Taking...................................................( )
   9. Credit Checks.....................................................( )
   Other ________________________________________________________________________________

C. Data Application/Document Preparation

   Assisting in the preparation of the following:

   1. Legal Memorandum, Briefs and Pleadings.........................( )
   2. Draft Wills, Deeds and Trusts....................................( )
   3. Tax Analysis.......................................................( )
   4. Probate Inventories and Inheritance and
       Federal Estate Tax Returns........................................( )
   5. Bankruptcy Schedules.............................................( )
   6. Subpoenas and Deposition Papers..................................( )
   7. Interrogatories and Answers to Interrogatories................( )
   8. Security Devices...................................................( )
   9. Settlement Agreements.............................................( )
   Other ________________________________________________________________________________

D. Communications

   1. Notifying clients of case status.................................( )
   2. Make arrangements for depositions and hearings................( )
   3. Scheduling party - witness court testimony......................( )
E. Appearances

1. Before Governmental Agencies

2. Before Administrative Agencies

Other

F. General Functions

1. Typing

2. Office filing

3. Docketing and case scheduling

4. Operate office machinery

5. Serve papers

6. File papers, motions, or pleadings

7. Take dictation

8. Receptionist

9. Appear for client in court

Other

3. If trained legal assistants were available, would your organization consider employing them?

YES

NO

a. If you would employ a legal assistant, when would you anticipate this position to be available? (Please indicate the number of legal assistants that you would employ on the line following the appropriate time period):

1) Immediately

2) Within the next year

3) In 2 years

4) In 3 years

5) In 4 years

6) In 5 years or more

4. If possible, estimate the annual salary that you would currently offer a trained legal assistant (Associate Degree graduate of a Legal Assistant Program approved by the American Bar Association).

$_____

- - - - - - THANK YOU - - - - - -

NAME OF RESPONDENT

ORGANIZATION
APPENDIX D

PROPOSED LEGAL ASSISTANT CURRICULUM
## KELLOGG COMMUNITY COLLEGE

### PROPOSED LEGAL ASSISTANT CURRICULUM

### FIRST YEAR

#### First Semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English 101 Basic Communications in Writing or English 120 Writing Improvement</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounting 101A General Accounting</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTRODUCTION TO LEGAL TECHNOLOGY*</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GENERAL LAW I*</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Studies Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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#### Second Semester

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<th>Course</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounting 101B General Accounting continued</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEGAL WRITING AND RESEARCH*</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political Science 200 American System of Government</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GENERAL LAW II*</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Physical Education</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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### SECOND YEAR

#### First Semester

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Course</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Technical Elective</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Studies Elective</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sociology 202 Social Problems</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>15 or 16</strong></td>
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48
Second Semester

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS*</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>LITIGATION PROCEDURES*</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Technical Electives</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Studies Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>17 or 18</td>
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</table>

*Courses to be developed

NOTE:

1. Legal Writing and Research will satisfy 3 hours of graduation requirement

2. General Studies Electives to be selected based upon the student's prior experience and interest. Suggested electives:
   - Speech 101
   - EDP 100
   - BUAD 111

3. Technical Electives to be selected from the following:
   - LAW OFFICE MANAGEMENT
   - REAL ESTATE LAW AND PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS
   - WILLS, TRUSTS, AND PROBATE ADMINISTRATION
   - LAWS OF DOMESTIC RELATIONS
   - INCOME TAXATION
   - INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
   - CIVIL AND CRIMINAL EVIDENCE
   - Criminal Justice 202 (existing course)
   - SETR 26 - Legal Terminology (existing course)
   - ACCO 252 - Federal Income Tax Accounting (existing course)
COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

LA 11 - Introduction to Legal Technology
2 credit hours
The role of the personnel in the legal office, ethical and professional practice standards, survey of the various fields of law, and local, state, and federal judicial systems are examined. In addition, a study of legislative history and legal terminology are included.

LA 12 - Legal Writing and Research
4 credit hours
A study of the law library and its use in legal research. Techniques for writing legal memoranda, case finding and briefing, and familiarization with statutes and sources of information are covered. Techniques of conducting interviews and investigations are also studied.

LA 13 - General Law I
3 credit hours
Miscellaneous fields of law pertaining to the law of torts, criminal law, liability of employers, workman's compensation laws, and federal and state constitutional law are studied.

LA 14 - General Law II
3 credit hours
Miscellaneous fields of law pertaining to commercial law, personal property, contracts, insurance, and bankruptcy are studied.

LA 21 - Government Regulations
4 credit hours
An examination of the principles of administrative procedures and their application in the regulations established by government. Procedures applicable to federal and state anti-trust laws, federal and state advertising laws, federal and state labeling and processing laws, and labor laws are studied. Also included is an examination of the roles of the Security Exchange Commission and federal, state, and local administrative agencies.

LA 22 - Business Organizations
3 credit hours
A study of the principles of the law pertaining to corporations, partnerships, and proprietorships. The law of agency is included. Dividends and other distributions that result from a business organization are covered.

LA 24 - Litigation Procedures
3 credit hours
The litigation process which involves the resolution of disputes through the use of the court system will be studied. Both civil and criminal litigation procedures will be covered.

LA 31 - Law Office Management
2 credit hours
Principles of management as applied to office organization, communications, interpersonal relations, planning the work load, and the utilization of financial resources are studied. Management of investigations and file preparation is included.
LA 32 - **Real Estate Law and Property Transactions**
3 credit hours
A study of the law of real property including the documents used in its transfer such as deeds, contracts, leases, and deeds of trusts. Real estate brokerage, closings, zoning, title examinations and legal descriptions are included.

LA 33 - **Wills, Trusts, and Probate Administration**
3 credit hours
Review of statutes governing probate administration, probating an estate, types of wills, trusts and applicable statutes, estate planning, and life insurance and gifts are studied.

LA 34 - **Laws of Domestic Relations**
3 credit hours
An examination of domestic relations law including divorce, separation, custody, legitimacy, adoption, guardianship, support, court procedures, and change of name.

LA 35 - **Income Taxation**
3 credit hours
A study of local, state, and federal income taxation of individuals and tax paying entities such as estates, trusts, and corporations. Emphasis is placed upon the preparation of tax returns. Also a survey of decisions concerning income tax controversies is included.

LA 36 - **Industrial Relations**
3 credit hours
A survey of labor legislation and a study of the theory and practice of collective bargaining. Topics will include the right to organize, standards of conduct, fair labor practices, arbitration, and grievances.

LA 37 - **Civil and Criminal Evidence**
2 credit hours
An examination of the rules of civil and criminal evidence and the admissibility of such evidence in court. Included is the study of clinical and circumstantial evidence.

Criminal Justice 202 - **Criminal Law**
3 credit hours
A study of the elements of criminal law and its purposes and functions. Laws of arrest, search and seizure, as well as the rights and duties of police officers and citizens are studied. The necessary elements to establish crime, criminal intent, and conspiracy are covered.

SETR 26 - **Legal Terminology**
3 credit hours
A course on legal secretarial duties, responsibilities, and terminology. Emphasis is placed on the preparation and filing of legal documents in the district, circuit and probate courts, including deeds, mortgages, options, wills, guardianship, civil and negligence litigation.
English 101 - Basic Communications in Writing 3 hours credit
Study and application of the nature, means, and purpose of communication including inquiry into conditions which affect it and practice in written and other forms of communication. Emphasis on individual thought and competence in educated usage.

English 120 - Writing Improvement 3 hours credit
Designed to improve basic language skills for college, for personal, and for professional use. Emphasis is on writing, grammar, usage, punctuation, spelling, and vocabulary. Learning is individualized, with programmed material. Instructional methods include class discussion, films, and short essays.

ACCO 101A - General Accounting 4 hours credit
The introductory principles of accounting, completing the cycle, and preparation of financial statements. Formation, operation, and dissolution of proprietorship, partnerships, and corporations.

ACCO 101B - General Accounting continued 4 hours credit
An introduction to accounting for assets, liabilities, manufacturing accounts and statements, source and application of funds, reserves, taxes, consolidations, analysis and interpretation of statements, and budgeting concepts.

ACCO 252 - Federal Income Tax Accounting 3 hours credit
Federal income tax law as it applies to the individual and the proprietorship forms of business. Recognition of items of income and deductions. Including capital gains, losses, and tax allowances.
Prerequisite: ACCO 101A and 101B or departmental approval.

Political Science 200 - American System of Government 3 hours credit
A survey of national, state and local governments in theory and practice. Offered each semester. Not designed for majors in the social sciences. This course, or Political Science 201 and 202 required for graduation.

Sociology 202 - Social Problems 3 hours credit
A study of current social problems including: mental disorders, crime and juvenile delinquency, delinquent and criminal structures, drug use, alcohol and alcoholism, suicide, sexual behavior, population problems, race relations, family disorganization, poverty, community disorganization, violence, youth and politics. Prerequisite: Sociology 201 or departmental approval.

Speech 101 - Foundations of Interpersonal Communication 3 hours credit
The course focuses on providing the student with an experience in human communication, emphasizing the oral tradition. Emphasis is placed on becoming an effective communicator in a variety of face-to-face communication situations.
EDP 100 - Introduction to Electronic Data Processing 3 hours credit
An introductory course in Electronic Data Processing with emphasis upon
business aspects and the relationship of data processing to the various areas
in business enterprise. The student is exposed to unit record concepts,
fundamental programming and computer concepts. Emphasis is placed upon
familiarizing the student with the equipment, vocabulary and work flow of
Data Processing. Lab Fee: $2.00

BUAD 111 - Mathematics of Finance 3 hours credit
Simple interest, bank discount, compound interest, annuities, and fundamental
statistical methods, with application of the above to business problems such as
insurance, stocks and bonds, depreciation, life insurance and sinking funds.
APPENDIX E

THE LEGAL LIBRARY
## APPENDIX E

### THE LEGAL LIBRARY

1. Shepard's Michigan Citations  
   3 Bound Volumes  
   Annual Subscription*  
   $105.00  
2. Michigan Reporter (covering 1-229) 85 Volumes  
   1,020.00  
   850.00  
4. Michigan Digest, 39 Volumes  
   702.00  
5. Michigan Compiled Laws Annotated, 50 Volumes  
   1,200.00  
   16.50  
7. American Jurisprudence  
   1,800.00 (est.)  
8. Black Law Dictionary ($16.00 ea.) 2 copies  
   32.00  
9. United State's Code Annotated, 182 Volumes  
   1,200.00  
10. Michigan Researcher* (12 issues annually)  
    49.00  

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<td><strong>Miscellaneous Publications (estimated)</strong></td>
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*Annual Subscription Rates