

HB

291

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(9)

Date Referred: April 22, 1993

FURTHER REFERRALS:

Finance

Date of Committee Action: 3/18/94

The HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES Committee considered:

HB 291

HOUSE BILL NO. 291

CONSUMER PROTECTION INTERN PROGRAM

"An Act establishing a consumer protection intern program at the University of Alaska."

RECOMMENDATIONS:

be replaced with _____

CS HB 291 (HESS)

the same title

a new title

have attached amendments(s)

do pass

do not pass

no recommendations

individual recommendations

additional referral to the _____ Committee

ADOPTS: _____ letter of Intent

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(s): (Dept) _____

APPROVES PREVIOUS: (Dept/Date) _____

fiscal impact _____

fiscal note(s) _____

zero fiscal note Law, University

zero fiscal note(s) _____

SIGNING DO PASS	DP	OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS	DNP	NR	AM
<i>[Signature]</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>[Signature]</i>		X	
<i>[Signature]</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>[Signature]</i>		X	
		<i>[Signature]</i>	X		

[Signature]
CHAIRMAN'S SIGNATURE



Alaska State Legislature

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION
AND SOCIAL SERVICES

DATE: 3-18-94

PLACE: Capitol Room 106

SUBJECT OF MEETING:
 *HB 291: CONSUMER PROTECTION INTERN PROGRAM
 — BILLS HELD OVER —
 HB 456: RESTRICT STUDENT LOANS TO ALASKA SCHOOLS
 HB 422: CHILD CUSTODY VISITATION TRIGGERS
 * INDICATES FIRST PUBLIC HEARING

NAME	REPRESENTING	BUSINESS/PERSONAL MAILING ADDRESS	ZIP	(H) PHONE	(W) PHONE	DO YOU WANT TO TESTIFY?	WHAT SUBJECT/ WHICH BILL?
SHERIE GOR	Alaska Women's Lobby	P.O. Box 22156 Juneau	99802		463-6744	(Y) N	HB 422
						Y N	
						Y N	
						Y N	
						Y N	
						Y N	
						Y N	
						Y N	
						Y N	
						Y N	

H/HESS ROLL CALL FORM

BILL HB 291 DATE 3/18/94
 TAPE 94-File B NUMBER 089
 SUBJECT OF VOTE TO PASS HB 291 OUT OF COMMITTEE WITH
INDIVIDUAL RECOMMENDATIONS

MEMBER	YEA	NAY	ABS
Rep. Cynthia Toohey	—	✓	—
Rep. Con Bunde	✓	—	—
Rep. Gary Davis	✓	—	—
Rep. Al Vezey	✓	—	—
Rep. Pete Kott	✓	—	—
Rep. Harley Olberg	—	—	—
Rep. Bettye Davis	—	—	—
Rep. Irene Nicholia	—	—	—
Rep. Tom Brice	—	—	—
TOTAL	<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>	—

+++++

BILL CSHB 422 DATE 3/18/94
 TAPE 94-File B NUMBER 130
 SUBJECT OF VOTE TO PASS CSHB 422 OUT OF COMMITTEE
WITH INDIVIDUAL RECOMMENDATIONS

MEMBER	YEA	NAY	ABS
Rep. Con Bunde	✓	—	—
Rep. Gary Davis	✓	—	—
Rep. Al Vezey	✓	—	—
Rep. Pete Kott	✓	—	—
Rep. Harley Olberg	—	—	—
Rep. Bettye Davis	—	—	—
Rep. Irene Nicholia	—	—	—
Rep. Tom Brice	—	—	—
Rep. Cynthia Toohey	—	✓	—
TOTAL	<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>	—

FISCAL NOTE

**STATE OF ALASKA
1994 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

BILL NO. CSHB291(HESS)

Revision Date: 3/18/94
Title: Consumer protection internship program

Department Affected: University of Alaska
BRU: University of Alaska, Anchorage
Component: Anchorage Campus

Sponsor: Sanford
Requestor: H HESS

COMPONENT SERIAL NO.

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY95	FY96	FY97	FY98	FY99	FY00
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL						
----------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

REVENUE FD SOURCE						
--------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)						
1002 FEDERAL FUNDS						
1003 GF MATCH						
1004 GENERAL FUND						
1006 GF/MHTIA						
OTHER						
TOTAL FUNDING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

POSITIONS:						
FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

Estimate of current year impact: None

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary.)

Prepared by: Wendy Matheny, Budget Analyst
Division: Statewide Budget Office

Phone: 463-3086
Date: _____

Approved by: Alison Elgee, Director
Agency: Statewide Budget Office

Date: 3/18/94

Distribution (by preparer): Legislative Finance, Legislative Sponsor, Requestor, OMB, & Impacted Agency(ies).

8-LS1044J
Ford
3/18/91

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 291()
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY

Offered:
Referred:

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVE SANDERS

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act establishing a consumer protection intern program at the University of
2 Alaska."

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

4 * Section 1. AS 14.40 is amended by adding a new section to read:

5 Sec. 14.40.105. CONSUMER PROTECTION INTERN PROGRAM. The University
6 of Alaska shall establish a consumer protection intern program that provides university credit
7 for work performed for the fair business practices section of the Department of Law. The
8 program established under this section may include one person selected by the University of
9 Alaska Anchorage, one person selected by the University of Alaska Fairbanks, and one person
10 selected by the University of Alaska Southeast. A person who is accepted into the consumer
11 protection intern program shall receive a stipend of \$1,000 from the University of Alaska.

HOUSE BILL NO. 291

AMENDMENT NO. 1

Page 1, line 8:

Delete: " must " Add: may

Explanation: At the present time applicable paralegal studies are only offered at the University of Alaska Anchorage and at Charter College in Anchorage. The Department of Law's fair business practices section is also located in Anchorage.

Page 1, line 11:

Delete: " may not participate for more than one semester and "

Explanation: This will allow the program to retain at least one student to provide continuity to the program and lower the amount of training time the Department of Law will have to expend.

STATE OF ALASKA
1994 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB291

Revision Date:
Title: Consumer protection internship program
Sponsor: Sanford
Requestor: H HESS

Department Affected: University of Alaska
BRU: University of Alaska , Anchorage
Component: Anchorage Campus

COMPONENT SERIAL NO.

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY95	FY96	FY97	FY98	FY99	FY00
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0

CAPITAL						
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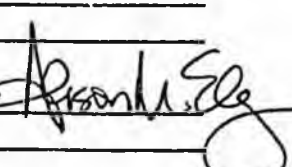
REVENUE FD SOURCE						
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FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)	FY95	FY96	FY97	FY98	FY99	FY00
1002 FEDERAL FUNDS						
1003 GF MATCH	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0
1004 GENERAL FUND						
1006 GF/MHTIA						
OTHER						
TOTAL FUNDING	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0

POSITIONS:	FY95	FY96	FY97	FY98	FY99	FY00
FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

Estimate of current year impact: None

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary.)
Funds reflected on the fiscal note are for 3 interns per semester for 2 semesters per year at \$1,000.00 per stipend.

Prepared by: Wendy Matheny, Budget Analyst Phone: 463-3086
Division: Statewide Budget Office Date: _____
Approved by: Alison Elgee, Associate Director  Date: 3/16/94
Agency: Statewide Budget Office

Distribution (by preparer): Legislative Finance, Legislative Sponsor, Requestor, OMB, & Impacted Agency(ies).

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
1994 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB 291

Revision Date: March 15, 1994
Title: "An Act establishing a consumer protection intern program at the University of Alaska."
Sponsor: Representative Sanders
Requestor: Representative Sanders

Department Affected: Department of Law
BRU: Legal Services
Component: Fair Business Practices
COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 1823

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES:

OPERATING	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00
PERSONAL						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND &						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

CAPITAL						
---------	--	--	--	--	--	--

REVENUE						
---------	--	--	--	--	--	--

FUNDING:

1002 Federal						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program						
1006 GF/MHTIA						
OTHER						
TOTAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

Estimate of current year (FY94) impact: -0-

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary.)
Please see the attached analysis.

Prepared by: Richard I. Pegues, Director
Division: Administrative Services Division

Phone: 465-3672
Date: March 15, 1994

Approved by Commissioner: Bruce M. Botelho, Attorney General
Agency: Department of Law

Date: March 15, 1994

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FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
1994 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB 291

ANALYSIS CONTINUATION:

This bill establishes a consumer protection intern program within the University of Alaska that provides university credit for work performed for the fair business practices section of the Department of Law. The bill requires that the program include one person selected by the University of Alaska Anchorage, one person selected by the University of Alaska Fairbanks and one person selected by the University of Alaska Southeast. The bill also provides that a person who is accepted into the consumer protection intern program may not participate for more than one semester and shall receive a stipend of \$1,000 from the University of Alaska.

The Department of Law's fair business practices section consists of one attorney, two paraprofessionals, and one legal secretary in Anchorage and one paraprofessional in Fairbanks. One of the two paraprofessionals in Anchorage and the paraprofessional in Fairbanks handle consumer protection matters, and the other paraprofessional in Anchorage handles antitrust investigations. The Anchorage attorney supervises all of the activities of the section and provides for enforcement of both the state's consumer protection and antitrust laws. The section has not had any onsite presence in Southeast Alaska since 1987.

Because of the small size of the section, and due to the section's large and varied responsibilities, the use of interns is somewhat problematic. Without any meaningful presence in Southeast Alaska, it would not be possible to train and supervise an intern in that region. It would be somewhat difficult to provide training and regular supervision in Fairbanks with just a single employee in that location. Providing training and supervision of an intern in Anchorage would not be easy, but benefits could result particularly in the legal research area. We also note that the one semester limit provided in the bill should probably be changed to two semesters, because it would probably take up to one semester to properly train an intern.



Representative Jerry Sanders

District 19

Vice Chair, Rules Committee
Vice Chair, Community & Regional Affairs Committee
House State Affairs Committee
Special Committee on Oil & Gas
Legislative Council
International Trade & Tourism

SPONSOR STATEMENT

H B 291

This bill provides for a program for University of Alaska students to work with the fair business practices section of the Department of Law. The program will provide university credit and invaluable experience for the students plus a stipend. The student interns will be involved with the fair business practices section of the Department of Law.

In recent years, the fair business practices section of the Department of Law has been cut from 13 to 3 people. The student interns will be able to assist in developing cases and providing needed follow-up on other cases and in return will receive valuable experience in the world of business and business law. This program will also provide hands-on experience in business ethics for the students.

Alaskans are being ripped off nightly by unscrupulous telemarketers primarily based in the lower forty eight. Victims, especially in the remote bush areas of the state have little practicable recourse. Alaska has a telemarketing law that makes the crime a felony with the possibility of extradition of offenders and serious fines. Currently, telemarketing enterprises who violate the law are merely sent a copy of the law and regulations.

Without the availability of additional staff, vulnerable members of your constituency will not be protected, because laws do not enforce themselves.

SPONSOR STATEMENT

716 W. 4th Avenue • Suite 360 • Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2133 • (907) 258-8199
During Session: State Capitol • Room 13 • Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182 • (907) 465-4945

DIVISION OF LEGAL SERVICES

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY STATE OF ALASKA

(907) 465-3867 or 465-2450
FAX (907) 465-2029
Mail Stop 3101

130 Seward Street, Suite 409
Juneau, Alaska 99801-2105

MEMORANDUM

March 8, 1994

SUBJECT: Sectional Summary of HB 291

TO: Representative Jerry Sanders

FROM: Michael F. Ford *M.F.*
Legislative Counsel

You have requested a sectional summary of the above-described bill.

As a preliminary matter, note that a sectional summary of a bill should not be considered an authoritative interpretation of the bill and the bill itself is the best statement of its contents. If you would like an interpretation of the bill as it may apply to a particular set of circumstances, please advise.

Section 1. Requires that the University of Alaska establish a consumer protection intern program that provides university credit for work performed for the fair business practices section of the Department of Law. The program must include one person selected by the University of Alaska Anchorage, one person selected by the University of Alaska Fairbanks, and one person selected by the University of Alaska Southeast. A person who is accepted into the consumer protection intern program may not participate for more than one semester and shall receive a stipend of \$1,000 from the University of Alaska.

MFF:lmb
94-075.lmb



AKPIRG

ALASKA PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP

Post Office Box 10-1093 / Anchorage, Alaska 99510

(907) 278-3661 FAX (907) 278-9300

Alaska Senator Tim Kelly
Chairman
Senate Finance Law Subcommittee
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801
February 28, 1994

Post-It™ brand fax transmittal memo 7671		# of pages ▶
To Bob Krogseng	From Cate Remme	
Co. Rep. Sanders	Co. AKPIRG	
Dept.	Phone # 907-278-3661	
Fax # 465-3476	Fax # 907-278-9300	

Dear Chairman Kelly:

I join with Rick Gilmore, President of the Better Business Bureau of Alaska, Inc., in urging your committee to add an additional attorney to the Fair Business Practice Section in Anchorage to enforce the telemarketing law and to supervise paralegal interns supplied at no cost from University of Alaska and Charter College. In addition, a toll free bush hot line can be established in Fairbanks to allow rural complaints to be taken and examined as potential violations of Alaska law. These modest increments should cost less than \$125,000, funds that will return to the state general fund through fines and settlements.

The figures I quote are drawn from Department records and budget requests of the Consumer Protection Section prior to its dissolution and merger with anti-trust and support for the APUC in the Fair Business Practices Section of the Department of Law.

Consumer fraud is a crime which robs both Alaska consumers and honest Alaska businesses. Estimated loss per year is \$460 per family. The National Chamber of Commerce estimates the loss to consumers at 20 billion dollars. The figures on telemarketing fraud from the BBB and the Department of Law suggest that 10 million dollars are drained from the Alaska economy every year, its consumers and its businesses. It appears that the loss to Alaska from consumer fraud is larger than caused by all of the property crimes regularly prosecuted by the Department of Law.

The telemarketing law made that crime a felony with the possibility of extradition of offenders with serious fines and prison terms, the possible result. However, despite the legislature's efforts to add this law to the arsenal of weapons against consumer fraud, current telemarketing enterprises who violate the law are merely sent a copy of the law and regulations. Without a new staff person, your committee's desire (and that of Alaska's first lady), that vulnerable members of your constituency be protected, will not occur because laws do not enforce themselves.

Fair Business Practice has only the use of one half time attorney and one full time investigator in Anchorage and a second in Fairbanks, operating on a current and proposed budget which is lower than that allocated in 1975 in 1975 dollars. The amount requested by the governor is the same amount left in the budget in 1992 after the legislature appropriated more than \$230,000 to return Alaska to the business of enforcing its consumer protection laws.

The Alaska BBB handles 100 complaints a day, but cannot handle the 15 to 20 percent of rural complaints that effectively have no place to go, given the absence of small claims courts in the bush and the difficulty of obtaining jurisdiction over long distance malefactors. This percent of rural calls is derived from BRUs of the consumer protection unit when it received 120 calls daily throughout the mid-1980s.

Consumer crime in its present state of neglect represents a hidden tax on Alaskans that competes with other property crimes including robbery and embezzlement. It is the single area of law enforcement that has the potential of reimbursing every dollar invested by the state. Records of the consumer protection agency demonstrate that with a modest increase in enforcement, \$145 per complaint can be retrieved on civil fines payable to the general fund and in direct compensation to consumers. This means that deterrence would effectively be provided Alaskans for free, its costs covered by monies recovered to the state and the Alaska economy.

With this in mind, Rick Gillmore of the Alaska Better Business Bureau and I urge you to consider two additions to the budget as proposed by the governor.

First, an additional full time attorney in Anchorage could enforce the telemarketing law and supervise a small, educated cadre of legal assistants provided as interns by the Justice program of the University of Alaska, Anchorage and Charter College. These trained persons could examine complaints as potential law violations and write letters leading to mediation. They could also pass complaints back to BBB where complainees are prepared to arbitrate or mediate and pass cases forward to the major fraud unit where cases demonstrate a special need for prosecution under consumer protection laws.

Since legal assistants must be supervised, an additional attorney is essential to this added dimension as well as to enforcement of the telemarketing law.

The second suggestion for improvement is to make better use of the Fairbanks investigator by allowing him to monitor a toll free hot line available to rural Alaska. Most cases could be settled with some passed forward to Anchorage for legal action.

Both of these suggestions are made with full recognition of the budgetary crisis now confronting our state. Yet these small changes could make a dent in consumer crime which now drains the Alaska economy. Where else can money be appropriated that fights crime against consumers and small businesses and pays for itself in funds recovered as it removes Alaska as the target of choice for scam artists from throughout the nation? The cost of an additional attorney and a toll free hot line would be less than \$125,000, according to Jim Forbes, \$25,000 for the hot line and \$93,000 for the attorney.

I am enclosing letters from the director of the UAA paralegal program and the President of Charter College. They are prepared to work with Jim Forbes and the Attorney General to help flesh out consumer protection with the assistance of trained and committed volunteers.

These additions to the consumer protection program of the Department of Law would not negatively impact its working relationship with the BBB and should in no way be taken as a criticism of that private program or the hard working personnel of the Fair Business Practices section.

In a year when crime is uppermost in our population's mind, to overlook the powerful effect of consumer crime would be a serious mistake, especially when it is the single area of law enforcement that consistently pays for itself.

Sincerely,



Stephen Conn
Executive Director



UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA ANCHORAGE

3211 Providence Drive Anchorage, Alaska 99508
(907) 786-1810 (907) 786-7777 fax

JUSTICE CENTER

January 28, 1994

Steve Conn
Alaska Public Interest Research Group
442 West 5th Avenue, Suite 202
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Steve:

The Justice Center would be able to provide qualified interns in support of the consumer protection unit, as we previously indicated. Our internship program is available to junior and senior students who have had considerable coursework in the Justice and Paralegal areas. The internship is a final requirement in the paralegal certificate program. Students wishing to enroll in it must submit writing samples which faculty evaluate before the student is accepted for enrollment. Further, students prepare resumes, apply for specific internships which we have established and are subjected to a selection process by agencies with whom the Justice Center has internship agreements. Interns involved in paralegal work must be under the supervision of an attorney although the supervisor doesn't have to be physically present at all times.

While it is true that the minimum number of hours per internship credit is 50, many internship placements require more than the minimum. The number of hours per week required of a student is written into each intern agreement. The assessment of the credit value takes into consideration the quality of learning from each internship. Thus, the assumption that students would work an average of only 2 hours per day is incorrect.

The number of students in the Justice Center internship is steadily increasing, and it could possibly provide 2 or 3 students each semester. In addition to Paralegal students, Justice baccalaureate majors also do internships in the Anchorage area. At the present time we are fortunate to have internships which students find very attractive. Placements are obviously more desirable if they involve interesting, meaningful work and a stipend. Unpaid internships cause hardships to some self-supporting students, particularly those who have dependent children. The Justice Center probably could not guarantee 4 interns at 20 hours per week on a continuous year round basis. A co-op position arrangement between UAA and agencies is one alternative which would give an agency with students for continuous work across semesters.

94 WED 12:39 UAA JUSTICE CENTER

P.02

S. Conn

Page 2

The Justice Center clearly supports the concept that student interns can provide necessary person power to support a viable consumer protection service in the Attorney General's office. There must, however, be a sincere commitment on the part of the Department of Law to establish a well-organized, high quality program which will benefit both the agency and internship students.

Please feel free to contact me at 786-1810 if you have any questions or if I can be of further assistance.

Very truly yours,



Lisa R. Rieger
Coordinator, Paralegal Certificate Program

LRR/jla



BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU OF ALASKA, INC.

"Where good business performance becomes a community record"

March 2, 1994

The Honorable Timothy D. Kelly
Senator and Subcommittee Chairman
Law Subcommittee
Senate Finance Committee
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Senator Kelly: *Tim*

I am writing this letter in my role as Chairman of the Board of the Better Business Bureau of Alaska. I urge your support for a cost effective enforcement of the telemarketing law. Specifically, I have been informed that the cost of adding an additional attorney to the Fair Business Practices Section of the Department of Law in order to supervise paralegal interns supplied at no cost from the University of Alaska and Charter College would be more than offset by expected fines and settlements. That appears to be a fiscally responsible, zero impact addition to the state's law enforcement capabilities.

Alaskans are being ripped off nightly by unscrupulous telemarketers primarily based in the lower forty eight. The act which was passed last year put the issue on the books. This year, enforcement can be attained through passage of the requested appropriation.

As you know the BBB has an excellent working relationship with the Attorney General's staff whereby we handle the tremendous volume of consumer complaints while referring the criminal complaints to the AG. Our services are paid for strictly by our members and save hundreds of thousands of dollars to the state which otherwise would employ staff either in the AG's office or the Ombudsman's office to handle the consumer complaint. The credibility of our combined efforts against the "bad guys" falters, however, without a firm enforcement policy which is adequately staffed and functioning. I urge your personal support and the subcommittee's support for the appropriation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Tim
With best regards,

FROM CHARTER COLLEGE

02.09.1994 17:32

P. 1



2221 East Northern Lights Boulevard, Suite 120
 Anchorage, Alaska 99508
 Telephone (907) 277-1000
 Fax (907) 274-3342

February 9, 1994

Attention: Steve

Re: Paralegal Program and Prospective Paralegal Interns

I am responding to your recent request for information on the Charter College paralegal program and paralegal interns.

I would estimate that you might find here during each of our five ten-week terms perhaps three or four paralegal interns.

Very cordially,

Milton Byrd
 President

MB:sm

POST-IT™ brand fax transmittal memo 7671		# of pages = 5
To	Steve	From
Co		Milton Byrd
Dept.		Co.
Fax #	278 9300	Charter College
		Phone #
		277-1000
		Fax #
		274-3342



PARALEGAL

The paralegal studies program is American Bar Association approved and requires twelve months of study. The student is trained to assist in the delivery of legal services under attorney supervision in both public and private sectors, and to operate modern computer-based office equipment and software.

The busy legal profession in Anchorage seeks advanced skills that bring together an understanding of law, legal practice, legal research and legal documentation. Combined with word processing and computer skills, as well as financial reporting and management skills, this program prepares the best law office professionals in the business.

Special Seven Month Paralegal Program for University Graduates

For students who already hold a bachelor's degree, the regular one-year Paralegal program can be completed in just seven months. Charter College honors these students' previous education and will waive a large block of required classes. So give your bachelor's degree an added value: a career with professional satisfaction and financial reward.

Legal Clinic, Incorporated (Non-Profit)

Charter College is host to a free, non-profit Legal Clinic. Clients in need are able to receive free qualified legal assistance, under the supervision of a licensed attorney. The students in the Charter College Paralegal Internship program will attain practical hands-on experience in legal work as they participate in all aspects of the preparation of court cases. Clients and students alike benefit from this endeavor.
