

## The PANO Scholarship for UT Paralegal Studies Students the History and the Future

The Paralegal Association of Northwest Ohio (PANO), formerly known as the Toledo Association of Legal Assistants (TALA), was organized in 1977 as a professional organization for paralegals. In 1988 TALA was incorporated under Ohio law as a non-profit, charitable corporation and became affiliated with the National Association of Legal Assistants.

The PANO Articles of Incorporation state that the purpose for the corporation is exclusively educational in nature. In accordance with our stated purpose, PANO offers an annual scholarship to Paralegal Studies students enrolled at The University of Toledo. The scholarship program, which is funded by PANO and administered by The University of Toledo Foundation, has awarded 10 scholarships since 1994.

The partnership PANO forged with The University of Toledo was a result of a mutual commitment to educational excellence for students enrolled in The University of Toledo Paralegal Studies Program (the "Program"). In keeping with the goal of high educational standards, the Program is approved by the American Bar Association. In the January 2005 issue of Legal Assistant Today, the leading publication for paralegals and paralegal programs in the United States, the Program was recognized as one of six "Unique Paralegal Programs" that go beyond basic paralegal education. This national recognition reflects and confirms the high standards of the Program which prepares students to work in a legal environment under the direct supervision of an attorney. In addition to offering a two-year associate degree and a four-year Bachelor of Science degree, the Program offers a post-baccalaureate certificate and a nurse paralegal certificate.

*"During the application process I had to reflect on my strengths as well as look at my academic achievements. The scholarship was invaluable...It gave me the confidence and courage to...finish with the program."  
1995 scholarship recipient*

For nearly a year, the Scholarship Committee has been developing a strategy and protocol for funding an endowed scholarship at UT. The endowed scholarship, which is described in the following paragraphs, is now ready to be funded. The committee is implementing the initial phase of the fundraising campaign by asking each PANO member to personally participate by making a tax-deductible gift to the endowed scholarship fund. We are also asking you to speak to your supervising attorneys, employers, or co-workers about the endowed fund and ask them to consider making a tax-deductible gift to the scholarship fund.

To further our educational goal and our commitment to the Program, on July 30, 2005, PANO entered into an Endowment Agreement with The University of Toledo Foundation. The agreement establishes an endowed scholarship fund known as **Paralegal Association of Northwest Ohio Endowed (PANO) Scholarship Fund ("PANO Endowed Fund")**. When fully funded, the **PANO Endowed Fund** will replace the scholarship fund that was initially established in 1990.

The primary benefits of the **PANO Endowed Fund** include:

- Contributions are tax-deductible for individual donors
- Contributions are pooled with other University of Toledo endowed funds (11.2% average return since 1990)
- When fully funded, PANO plans to expand the scholarship program to include Paralegal Studies students at other Northwest Ohio institutions

Maintaining the highest quality education for paralegals is important not only to the students enrolled in the Program, but to the lawyers, law firms, corporations, and government entities employing the students after graduation. That is why we are asking for your support in funding the **PANO Endowed Fund**. A contribution from you affirms your commitment to the quality education of paralegals in Northwest Ohio. A contribution from you also ensures that deserving Paralegal Studies students at The University of Toledo will receive an annual scholarship of \$1,000.

*"Knowing that the TALA Scholarship was available was...an added incentive for me to work towards the highest academic excellence possible. It acquainted me with other local paralegals and the organization that encourages professionalism in the paralegal field..."*  
2000 scholarship recipient

Please support the commitment TALA, and now PANO, has made toward educational excellence for the paralegal profession by making your tax-deductible donation today. Please complete and return the attached donor form and your check to a PANO Scholarship Committee member today.

Thank you for supporting the educational goals of PANO.

If you have questions concerning the **PANO Endowed Fund** please contact a member of the PANO Scholarship Committee.

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