

A New Year + New Opportunities

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New Year's resolutions are made because we want to change something in our life, and that is generally a good thing. Is this the year that you want to start a new career, change to a different job, or use your well-developed skills and knowledge to enter a new career field? If you have (or are considering) a career resolution, you are likely aware that human nature will test your resolve. A very common reaction to job/career change is fear. Fear of: the unknown, failure, new challenges, lack of experience, or financial adjustments. If you take the time to get focused on your career goals first, you can find ways to overcome those fears and doubts.

While each person has their personal motivations driving a job or career change, many find it very difficult to step outside of their comfort zone to face uncertainty (easier to complain than change). A job change is moving in a new direction and the outcome of change can be positive or negative. Planning, Research and Confidence are key components to making your outcome positive. And, without any doubt, a positive outcome requires a positive attitude. Stay positive, committed and focused. Finding the right job can take time, even when you are doing everything right.

At the beginning of 2015, I made a significant career change that took me well outside of my comfort zone. It took months of planning and research for me to commit to making the change. Part of my business/career plan included getting more active on LinkedIn as I think it is a great resource for

information and networking. Over the last year, my contacts grew from a few hundred to over 11,000! I have always considered networking a critical part of career development, but that number of contacts is mind boggling to me. So, I would like to say “Thank You” to all of my clients, friends, and professionals on LinkedIn that have become part of my network across the U.S., and in a few other countries—Hello, to all my new contacts in Canada!

If you are considering making changes in your job or career this year, I would like to nudge and encourage you to embrace that challenge. Grow your network on LinkedIn and through other professional resources. Take the time to research and develop your job search strategy; and greet the New Year with enthusiasm, optimism and ambition as you seek your new opportunities—no fear.

Bert Binder started her legal career in 1988 and has been employed as a paralegal in both the government and private sectors. She has been a member of the adjunct faculty of an ABA approved Paralegal Program since 2001. Her career has evolved from traditional paralegal jobs, to Litigation Technology Consultant, and Director of Courtroom Technology for the fourth largest court system in the country. Bert is currently a Paralegal Career Coach, providing services to Paralegals and other legal support staff at various stages of their careers.