



The Case of the Model Employee: Joey L.

Joey L. has worked at the law firm of Pappalardo, Tombini and Wolff for three years, growing as an employee and as an individual.

Joey began by performing data entry as part of an internship through Southern Westchester's Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES). "There wasn't a single key stroke error in his work," notes Office Manager Phyllis Brigatino. Upon graduation, he was hired as a full-time employee through Westchester Arc's supportive employment program. Job Coach C.J. Santoianni helped him tone his work skills and build relationships with co-workers. "Within three months of working with C.J., Joey grew more confident in his work and in himself," says Michele Tombini. In addition to data entry, Joey now opens mail and categorizes legal documents, a task he is able to perform from memory. He downloads legal files from the Internet and collates documents for real estate closings. He has his own office and computer.

"Joey pays a lot of attention to detail and has great organizational and memory retention skills. There have been times when he's corrected me on something," says Greg Pappalardo.

Joey recently won three gold medals for swimming at a regional Special Olympics event, and will go on to statewide competition later in the year. Says Joey, "I keep working hard at everything I do."