AN ACT

Amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in representation of litigants, further providing for penalty for unauthorized practice of law.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows:

Section 1. Section 2524(a) of Title 42 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes is amended and the section is amended by adding a subsection to read:

§ 2524. Penalty for unauthorized practice of law.

(a) General rule.—Except as provided in subsection (b), any person, including, but not limited to, a paralegal or legal assistant, who within this Commonwealth shall practice law, or who shall hold himself out to the public as being entitled to practice law, or use or advertise the title of lawyer, attorney at law, attorney and counselor at law, counselor, or the equivalent in any language, in such a manner as to convey the impression that he is a practitioner of the law of any jurisdiction, without being an attorney at law or a
corporation complying with 15 Pa.C.S. Ch. 29 (relating to professional corporations), commits a misdemeanor of the third degree upon a first violation. A second or subsequent violation of this subsection constitutes a misdemeanor of the first degree.

* * *

(d) Diploma privilege.--A person does not violate subsection (a) if admitted to practice law under diploma privilege as enacted by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court.

Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.