

Posted June 1, 2007

## The Good Girls: Sometimes employee's worth not realized until they're gone

Dear Good Girls: I read your feature "Fired and Burned" and knew immediately I was not alone. Although I am still working with my current employer, we have seen this scene play again and again. As my fellow employees and I look at each other, we ask, "Who will be next?"

Thank you for sharing your insights. I hope that employers are reading this, so they will be more tactful during their next round of cuts.

Dear Good Girls: I have enjoyed reading your features. You responded to a retired lady regarding a Web site that produced "stay-at-home jobs." I would appreciate that Web site address.

Dear Reader: Several people wrote asking about the Web site I mentioned in a column about the possibility of becoming a virtual assistant, a job that can be done from home.

Virtual assistants are self-employed entrepreneurs who provide administrative services for busy professionals, all from their own home office.

Some readers of that column were confused, thinking that the Alliance for Virtual Businesses' Web site — [www.allianceforvirtualbiz.com](http://www.allianceforvirtualbiz.com) — is a source for stay-at-home jobs. That is incorrect.

The Alliance Web site offers a directory of virtual assistants, an e-zine with useful tips on managing your business, protecting your Web site and other hot topics, and links to other people in the industry.

"We want to help people who want to become legitimate business owners, but we are not a temp agency or an employment agency," says Sharon Williams, chairwoman of the Alliance.

Virtual assistants who want to work for an agency that finds them assignments should contact Team Double-Click ([www.teamdoubleclick.com](http://www.teamdoubleclick.com)). Team Double-Click matches virtual assistants it has trained with business owners who want virtual support for their small or home-based enterprises.

Send Leslie Whitaker e-mail at [leslie@ctwfeatures.com](mailto:leslie@ctwfeatures.com) or write to P.O. Box 11156, Shorewood, WI 53211.

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Reader Comment

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Very important though, for those interested in the VA industry, to understand that VAs are self-employed business operators, they are not employees. So whilst I can understand they are seeking to find work to operate as VAs they do need to realise that registering with an agency could be quite different to operating as a business owner and servicing clients.

There are many VA networks and directories, however, where they can list their businesses and services so that clients can find them - either directly or via a request for work to be done. The VAs therefore get to choose what rate they want to charge, rather than being told how much they're going to be paid - an important difference.