

January 2018 Spotlight Member Virginia Hernandez

I am proud to announce that our first Spotlight Member for 2018 is Virginia Hernandez! She has two (2) daughters, four (4) grandchildren and all of their names start with a “Z”! Virginia’s daughters are 12 years apart. Virginia is the oldest of six (6) and has twin sisters who are 12 years younger than her. When she was younger, the older kids from the neighborhood would put on singing shows for the smaller kids and charge them a penny to watch. They had costumes and a stage and would practice for days. They went all out to do their performances.

Virginia stated that she “just kind of fell into it” when asked how she got her start as a legal professional. She took typing and business classes in high school. She received a \$2500.00 Grant and decided to attend Heald College. She chose the Legal Secretary course and received her legal secretary certificate. She worked part time for a defense workers’ compensation firm while she attended school and then stayed on full time when she graduated. Virginia then worked at the Boccardo Law firm handling plaintiffs’ workers’ compensation and stayed there for 17 years. She then made her move to Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati and has been there 18 years.

She said she is motivated by being busy, accomplishing something and enjoys the work. A day in her shoes goes like this:

Her job is a day to day thing, what was important yesterday might not be so important today! She usually starts her day with checking emails. She gets requests like finding documents and providing copies ASAP or to reserve a conference room for a meeting that day and get security clearance for those attending the meeting. She receives continuous emails to do this or that (which could be as simple as printing documents to finding emails, making binders or travel arrangements). The interruptions are constant on busy days and the unimportant day to day stuff being put off until the next day. She pulls documents from the courts’ dockets and saves them to their system. Sometimes she is notified that day that she has a court filing or filings, as has been the case of late, and she spends the day focused on completing that task. She submits invoices for payment, routes letters and filings to the teams she belongs to and edits and creates pleadings and letters for the attorneys. She enters time when it is due and basically can spend the day running around feeling like she has accomplished nothing but by day’s end, most of what she’s been asked to do is done.

Since joining SCCoLPA, Virginia has gained the courage to step out of her comfort zone to start interacting with others and finds that our meeting topics are interesting and she is learning new things, meeting new people and enjoying being “out” during the week.