

October 2017 Spotlight Member Shannon Quigley

Shannon was born in Southern California. Her parents moved around a bit and she found herself in Fayetteville, Arkansas two months before her senior year of high school, which she was not happy about. When she enrolled for her senior year, she was told she had “too many credits” from California and did not need to attend her senior year! However, the high school offered a free vocational program for cosmetology if she attended at least three classes. She enrolled in Bible Study, Mythology and Roller Skating! Upon graduation, she went to work for her cousin who happened to own a salon. While in Arkansas, she married a country boy at the age of 19. She was in a horrible three-wheeler accident where she broke her neck, back and wrist. Several years later, after divorcing and moving back to California, she found that standing behind the chair for 10 -12 hours a day was no longer an option and she turned to office work, which allowed her to sit for part of the day. She found a receptionist position at a law firm and eventually moved up to a legal assistant.

Without SCCoLPA, she would not be where she is today, both personally and professionally. She was laid off from her legal job due to downsizing. For two years, she looked for work. After many interviews, her lack of a college degree and networking kept her from employment. In November of 2011, she enrolled in West Valley’s Paralegal Program. That same month, she applied for membership in SCCoLPA and signed up for workshops at LSI’s Quarterly Conference. She showed up, not knowing anyone, put on a brave face and walked up to registration. She was promptly “turned over” to the care of Linda Neuman, who took Shannon under her wing, made her feel welcome, answered questions and introduced her to Elise Dresser, CCLS, Rod Cardinale, Jr. and Jill Gardella, CCLS. Fast forward to 2017 and she is proud be working full time in a field of law she totally enjoys. She is still going to college, has a growing network of like-minded people and could not be happier. The best part is that along the way, she has made some remarkable friendships that would not have happened had she not “stepped out of my comfort zone” in 2011!

Her motivation comes from knowing she is making a difference in other people’s lives. Someone once said “Work for a cause, not for applause. Live life to express, not to impress and do not strive to make your presence noticed, just make our absence felt.” She thinks of these words often and is happy her career path and volunteer time with SCCoLPA is making a difference.

She is currently a legal assistant for the Law Office of Janet L. Brewer who handles estate planning in Palo Alto. The office has two attorneys and an Office Manager/Paralegal (Rod Cardinale, Jr.). Her day varies, but include duties such as making copies, greeting clients, preparing correspondence for clients and the court, filing, ordering supplies & stationery, copying, faxing and maintaining the office.

On closing a few things Shannon would like us to know about her is that she once worked for a subsidiary of Match.com called Goodcompany.com, a smaller online dating service where she was a chat moderator (basically a babysitter for the badly behaved!). She has been tandem skydiving, at sunset, in Hollister and she collects PEZ dispensers.