

Member in the Spotlight Get to Know You Suggestions

Marzella Philip moved from West Germany to Wisconsin in the late 1970's. She is one of two children. Her parents divorced when she was still little. She moved to California in 1989. Marzella cannot say that she ever was a kid because she's always had an old soul. In high school, she would get up early so that she could go to the coffee shop and read the paper with her morning coffee and toast before school started.

God guided Marzella on her life path. Everything she has ever done in life has always been for a reason, although she hasn't always been aware of this. She discovered her path through her hard work at an elementary school and then with her work at a skilled nursing facility.

Marzella worked as a receptionist for a civil litigation firm around 10 years ago. At that time, her mom was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis and she thought she wanted to do something in the medical profession. She had several jobs scanning medical records, billing, and being a receptionist at a skilled nursing facility. She decided to get a nursing degree and took a few career assessment tests to determine what type of nurse she should be. All the career assessment tests that Marzella took began to steer her to the legal profession. She went back to school to complete her paralegal certification; her AS and then she'll go for her BA.

God, her family, and the Constitution motivates Marzella. She helped her mom study for her citizenship test and she didn't realize it then but knows now that a love for this kind of work was brewing in her heart. She thought she may decide to work for a constitutional law attorney, however, she now works for an estate planning/probate and some general legal (business formation) firm. Working with the sick over the last five years and becoming attached to people has helped groom her for this position of the sensitive topic of death.

Marzella loves the outdoors and fishing. Because of her outdoor interests, she purchased her first home in Nevada City, California, in the heart of the gold country. She has been married for 22 years and dated her husband for 26 years. She is the proud owner of a Doberman named Oskar. She loves to promote the sweetness of the breed. She and her husband have had Oskar in since he was a little puppy, becoming theirs at 2 1/2 weeks old. He is now 110 pounds, 3 years old, and visits the sick and elderly facility. He is a gentle giant. Also, some of Marzella's weekends are spent working at the Loma Prieta Winery.

Marzella was a member of SCCoLPA many years ago and the attorney she worked for appreciated that she thrived from the organization and the seminars that were offered. The first thing she did upon being hired at Legato Law was rejoin SCCoLPA. Some of the topics do not relate to the law her firm practices, however, she is still in school and she's already benefited from the seminars by citing a SCCoLPA speaker in a paper.