

## **February Spotlight Member**

### **M'Liss Bounds**

M'Liss Bounds was born and raised in California and is proud to say that she rode the bus into Watts to desegregate the Los Angeles Unified School District in 1970 during her 7<sup>th</sup> grade year. Because of this experience "it really made me the person that I am". She continued to be bused into Watts through her sophomore year in high school until her family eventually moved to Westchester, whereupon she graduated from high school.

It was while taking a business law class in high school that she became interested in the legal field and where her teacher introduced her to a new career called "Paralegal". After high school, she attended Humphreys College in Stockton, California and graduated with a degree in Paralegal Science. She has been in the legal field ever since and has worked primarily in civil litigation, but also in family law and probate. She has worked in Stockton, Redding, Santa Cruz and now San Jose.

She loves being the right hand to her trial attorneys and feels she handles the pressure of trial well while maintaining a sense of humor, especially during stressful times. "Every day in this field comes with its own demands, responsibilities and rewards. "

Currently, M'Liss is a paralegal in the employment group at Hoge, Fenton, Jones & Appel in San Jose. In addition to her many duties as a paralegal, she is also a trainer for her Firm and uses her knowledge and experience to train incoming staff, new law school graduates and attorneys. She is passionate about training and it is what motivates her.

M'Liss says that being a member of SCCoLPA has introduced her to many new friends in the legal field with experience in various legal practices and "I know that I always have a colleague to call on". M'Liss currently serves as the Reservations Chair for SCCoLPA and this has been a great introduction to the organization and its members.