

July Spotlight Member Lori Lovelace-Jones, CCLS

Lori has been interested in being the legal profession for over 20 years. She took the plunge to educate herself after her marriage ended and she was faced with the need to support herself. She needed a career, not just a job, so she enrolled in a paralegal program at Heald College.

Upon graduation, one of her former instructors hired her for a few hours a week, but needing more hours, she posted her services on the listserv of a local attorneys' association to which she belongs. Within a short time, she had two interviews. After the second interview, she was offered a full-time legal assistant position, where she has been working for two years now.

Her job duties include some purely secretarial tasks, such as answering the phone and filing and other tasks that are unique to a law office, such as filling Judicial Council forms; and some paralegal duties, such as drafting discovery responses.

Her attorney will be retiring in the next 2-3 years, so she will be looking for a new opportunity in the near future. Per Lori "In order to increase my chances of obtaining a good-paying position at a quality law firm, I needed an impartial way to prove basic competency and my dedication to my legal support position as a 'career', not just a job to do until something better comes along. I wanted to be able to show potential employers that for me, this is the 'something better', and that I worked hard to make it happen." That is why she decided to take the CCLS exam. Thanks to winning the fee waiver from SCCoLPA, she was able to take the exam only two weeks after she had met eligibility requirements of working in a law office.

To quote Lori, "Being a SCCoLPA member has been invaluable. I have people I can all with questions, and obtaining CLE credit just by attending a meeting makes it so easy to keep up with the statutory CLE requirements to call myself a legal assistant/paralegal."

Lori couldn't have said it better! SCCoLPA is proud to recognize Lori Lovelace Jones as its first Member in the Spotlight."