

Lisa Moniz's parents were born in Azores, Portugal and met and were married in their 20's. They later immigrated to San Jose, CA and had two children. Lisa is the oldest. She has a brother who is almost five years younger than she is. Portuguese was her first language. Her parents have always had a very strong work ethic and were able to buy a home and give her and her brother everything they needed. Having a 5<sup>th</sup> grade education and coming to the United States with very little money didn't deter them from providing for their children. Lisa grew up with a lot of cousins and family members.

Lisa was always interested in law as she grew up as a part of the Court TV generation. She was specifically drawn to criminal law. She used to take career quizzes in high school, and it turned out that a secretarial / administrative job in the legal profession was a good fit for her, so she enrolled in a 10-month accelerated paralegal program.

Her first job after graduating from high school was working for a solo practitioner who specialized in plaintiff's personal injury law. She then worked at the Federal Public Defender's Office for 5 years. Experiencing the criminal law field was fascinating to her. She realized that working in criminal law was as exciting in practice as it appeared on television. The only issue was that the pay was barely satisfactory. Her next career step was straight to civil litigation where she has stayed for approximately 15 years.

Being a litigation secretary at Hoge Fenton in the employment law group is rewarding. Lisa also supports attorneys in their general litigation practice and feels lucky to work with such a wonderful team where she has opportunities to grow and learn new things every day.

Lisa has two daughters who are 13 and 16. They truly motivate her and because Lisa was raised with parents that had an amazing work ethic, she is determined to pass that same work ethic on to her daughters.

Meeting new people in the legal field through SCCoLPA has been quite enjoyable to Lisa and she feels that the training thus far has been valuable. She is looking forward to learning more and we are looking forward to her participating in her membership.