



THE DAILY TRANSCRIPT CONGRATULATES SAN DIEGO PARALEGALS 2009

This section pays tribute to San Diego County's notable Paralegals of 2009, who were chosen by an independent panel based on Honesty & Integrity, Professionalism, Community & Contributions and Enthusiasm.

SAN DIEGO PARALEGALS 2009

Finalist



Jeffrey Bennion
Maxie Rheinheimer
Stephens & Vrevich LLP



Monica Coates
Cozen O'Connor

Heather Crawford
Law Offices of
Beatrice L. Snider,
APC



Kristine Custodio
Butterfield
Schechter LLP



Katherine G. Dillon
Kirby Noonan
Lance & Hoge



Joni Etue
Gordon & Rees
LLP



Kristen K. Fehner
Latham & Watkins
LLP



Gina R. Lucas
Slater & Truxaw
LLP



Theresa R. Oimstead
Procopio, Cory,
Hargreaves &
Savitch LLP



Cam B. Picano
Klinedinst PC

SAN DIEGO PARALEGALS 2009 WINNER



Kristine Custodio
Butterfield Schechter LLP

Kristine Custodio, CP, is a certified paralegal for Butterfield Schechter LLP specializing in ERISA/employee benefits law, business law and civil litigation, where she supports partner Marc S. Schechter in all phases of pretrial litigation and research, employee benefit matters including pension plans, audits, Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) compliance and litigation, stock option plans, estate planning and more.

She earned a bachelor's degree in human development from California State University at Long Beach, where she was on the Dean's Honor List. She completed her paralegal studies at UCSD in 2004 and became a Certified Paralegal in 2006. She is also a Notary Public. Further, in 2006 Kristine obtained her Human Resource Management certificate from UCSD and serves as an administrator for an adult residential facility for developmentally disabled adults.

Custodio also serves on the University of San Diego Paralegal Program's Advisory Board and is currently the vice president of programs and education for the San Diego Paralegal Association (SDPA), serves as a director, and co-chairs the National Association of Legal Assistants (NALA) and School Liaison committees. Previously, in 2008, Custodio served as SDPA's executive vice president of marketing, showcasing design and marketing experience she acquired while working at a design firm prior to embarking on her paralegal career.

Custodio is passionate about education and in her capacity as SDPA's school liaison has coordinated the association's popular annual educational seminar, Bridging the Gap, encouraging networking between paralegal students and working paralegals. She also manages four programs -- the speaker's bureau/leadership development committee, the mentoring program, the student commission and the scholarship program. She frequently speaks at the various local paralegal schools, and also gave a presentation on Ethical Decision Making in the Workplace to the 32nd Street U.S. Navy Legal Command.

She writes for SPDA, the California Alliance of Paralegal Associations (CAPA) and The Daily Transcript on various topics, including California Business & Professions Code 6450, which many California companies and law firms still do not know about, though the law has been around since 2001.

In 2008, Custodio was recognized as a runner-up for the Legal Assistant Today's Paralegal of the Year national award. She is currently obtaining her business management certificate from UCSD Extension.

In her free time, Custodio enjoys writing her first novel, reading, drawing, playing the violin and piano, teaching herself to play new instruments, traveling and her time on the driving range.

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