



# Congratulations!

*The Daily Transcript* would like to recognize the 2008 San Diego Paralegals nominees

**Judith Hansen**

Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP

**Katherine Scheele**

Robbins Umeda & Fink LLP

**Elaine Wright**

Luce, Forward, Hamilton & Scripps LLP

**Kathy Jaquez**

Luce, Forward, Hamilton & Scripps LLP

**Patty Kushner**

Luce, Forward, Hamilton & Scripps LLP

**Sheryl Garcia**

Best, Best & Krieger

**Diana M. Niquette**

The Simmons Firm

**Lesley K. Forbes**

Latham & Watkins LLP

**Andrew Duckworth**

Casey, Gerry, Schenk, Francavilla, Blatt & Penfield LLP

**Linda Brangwynne**

Latham & Watkins LLP

**Beth Vicker**

Mangum & Britt APC

**Paula Smoogen**

Baker & McKenzie

**Donna Rousseau**

Fish & Richardson PC

**Barbara May**

The McClellan Law Firm

**Kate Saari**

Coughlan, Semmer & Lipman

**Cassie Olguin**

Dunk & Associates/Law Offices of Karin Wick

**Joni Etue**

Gordon & Rees LLP

**Sheila Hinds**

Law Offices of Beatrice L. Snider APC

**Eileen Atkinson**

Law Offices of Beatrice L. Snider APC

**Michelle Hittle**

Cooley Godward Kronish LLP

**Shelly Scavia**

Boner Stern & Sipple

**Cindy Waller**

Pope, Berger & Williams LLP

**Alla Kagan**

Goodwin Procter LLP

**Lindsey Havel**

Neil Dymott, Frank, McFall & Trexler

**Don Morton**

San Diego District Attorney's Office

**Jennifer Payne**

Fish & Richardson PC

**Maria Arreola**

Asaro, Keagy, Freeland & McKinley

**Jeannette Burda**

Koeller, Nebeker, Carlson & Haluck LLP

**Stephanie Atkinson**

Skaja & Daniels LLP

**Cynthia Haynes**

Luce Forward Hamilton & Scripps LLP

**Janet Haskell**

Casey, Gerry, Schenk, Francavilla, Blatt & Penfield LLP

**Kendra Stark Bogle**

DLA Piper

## Finalists

### Barbara May

The McClellan Law Firm  
1144 State St.  
San Diego, CA 92101  
(619) 231-0505

Barbara May has more than 15 years experience as a paralegal/legal assistant, primarily in plaintiff's personal injury, products liability and wrongful death areas. She has extensive practice in civil litigation and trial preparation, both in state and federal court, and recently supported two of the firm's attorneys during a three-week federal trial in Fresno, Calif.

Before joining The McClellan Law Firm, she played a key role in a complex,

multiparty case against Tyson Foods that resulted in a settlement of more than \$42 million.

May was born in Hawaii and grew up in a military family. She has lived in California, New Jersey, Tennessee, Louisiana and Arkansas. She recently returned to California to be close to family, although her southern charm is still apparent and appreciated by her co-workers and clients alike.

May earned her associate's degree from Southwest Tennessee Community College, graduating *cum laude*. Since then, she has embraced her role as a paralegal, and works closely with attorneys to assist



them in presenting their cases.

In her spare time, she enjoys outdoor activities, traveling and spending time with her two children.

### Don E. Morton

San Diego County District Attorney's Office  
330 W. Broadway, Suite 1100  
San Diego, CA 92101  
(619) 531-3640

Don Morton is currently assigned as a paralegal in the Superior Court Division of the District Attorney's Office. He was promoted to supervisor in March 2006, and currently supervises an 11-member paralegal staff handling criminal felony cases. These cases include homicides, carjackings, residential burglaries, assaults, arsons and street drug sales. His division is responsible for preparing an active caseload of approximately 300 cases for trial.

Morton is currently assigned to a two-defendant death penalty case pending trial in August. For this case, he has processed for discovery over 14,000 documents and several hundred pieces of media, including video and

audio; and coordinating for trial more than 200 witnesses located throughout the United States.

Morton is a member of the Paralegal Training Subcommittee, planning and coordinating semiannual MCLE training for the division paralegal staff; the Policy Development - Retention/Destruction of Discovery/Evidence Committee; and the Office Staff Training/Witness Travel Improvement Committees.

He served 21 years in the U.S. Marine Corps, mostly in Legal Services, providing direct trial support to prosecutors and defense attorneys. He handled appellate issues, legal assistance (civil, family, and estate planning), law office administration, served as the foreign claims officer reviewing claims against the U.S. government, investigated personnel injury claims and damage to government property, and coordinated and supervised the Volunteer Income



Tax Program for service members and their families.

Retiring as a chief warrant officer 3 as a legal administrative officer, Morton was in charge of all enlisted staff assigned to a general court-martial command. He then graduated from the University of San Diego with a bachelor's degree in business administration, thereafter completing the USD Paralegal program in 1982.

### Diana M. Niquette

The Simmons Firm ALC  
11440 W. Bernardo Court,  
Suite 390  
San Diego, CA 92127-1655  
(858) 676-1668

Diana Niquette is a paralegal with The Simmons Firm ALC of Rancho Bernardo, which specializes in advising and assisting individuals and businesses in corporate law, and business and real estate transactions. She obtained her paralegal certificate in Civil Litigation with honors from the University of San Diego in 1995.

Niquette began her paralegal career in 1995 at a downtown San Diego law firm specializing in medical malpractice insurance defense. She supported the attorneys in all aspects of settlement negotiation and trial preparation.

Her current duties are vast and encompass all aspects of

corporate compliance, real estate transactions, entity formation and dissolution, corporate acquisitions, shareholder transactions and succession planning. In addition, Niquette is a California Notary Public and member of the National Notary Association.

Niquette lives in the Westwood area of Rancho Bernardo with her husband and two children. In October 2007, when the Witch Creek fire ravaged San Diego, more than 300 homes were destroyed in her neighborhood. Although her home was safe, many of her friends, neighbors and some of The Simmons Firms' clients suffered great losses. During the last few months, Niquette has spent many volunteer hours supporting the community by donating needed items, assisting with clean up, participating in fundraisers and support



groups, and by being a supportive friend to those in need.

In the last nine years, Niquette has volunteered with the Girl Scouts of America, as a troop leader, a cookie mom and a member of the Rancho Bernardo Service Unit team. She also donates her time to the Rancho Bernardo Little League as a team mom.

### Cassie Olguin

Contract work for various attorneys

Cassie Olguin graduated from California State University, Chico in 2004 with a bachelor's degree in political science, option in legal studies and a paralegal certificate.

She began working in the legal field in September 2004 with Douglas Barker, assisting with his mediation and litigation practice. Soon thereafter, she began working at Dunk & Associates and the Mowbray Law Firm. She also started working for the Law Office of Karin Wick, a busy personal injury practice.

In 2006, Olguin joined Strauss & Asher, working primarily with Denise Asher. While at Strauss & Asher, Olguin gained experience in all phases of trial work, including preparation of pre-

trial reports, witness scheduling and jury observation. She helped prepare a number of medical malpractice cases for trial, and took away a great understanding of the complexities of medical malpractice law.

In November 2007, when Strauss & Asher dissolved, Olguin elected to perform contract work for various attorneys in the community. She happily found herself back working with Andrew Dunk and Rebecca Lack Mowbray at Dunk & Associates and the Mowbray Law Firm. She also started working for the Law Office of Karin Wick, a busy personal injury practice.

Olguin has been lauded by each of her employers for her excellent skills, as well as her dedication, commitment, integrity and reliability. She has a solid knowledge of court



and local rules, including law and motion deadlines. She is also well versed in propounding discovery, and preparing responses thereto. Olguin has been married to her very supportive husband Adam since July 2005. They recently bought a condo in the South Bay and are expecting their first child in August.

### Donna L. Rousseau

Fish & Richardson PC  
12390 El Camino Real  
San Diego, CA 92130  
(858) 678-5070

Donna Rousseau has been a member of the San Diego legal community since 1986. She has extensive experience in all areas of civil litigation, including construction defect, products liability and intellectual property.

She received her paralegal certificate from the University

of San Diego in 2001. For the past three years she has been a case managing paralegal with the law firm Fish & Richardson PC, specializing in intellectual property litigation. Prior to joining Fish & Richardson, Rousseau worked as a paralegal and legal assistant for local and national firms such as Procopio Cory Hargreaves & Savitch LLP, Cooley Godward Kronish LLP and Epsten, Grinnell & Howell. Donna has extensive trial experience in both state and federal courts in California and throughout the



United States.

### Shelly Scavia

Boner Stern & Sipple  
591 Camino de la Reina,  
Suite 710  
San Diego, CA 92108  
(619) 295-7100

Shelly Scavia has been with Boner Stern & Sipple for more than 19 years. She joined the firm as a receptionist in 1989. She went on from there to the position of legal secretary in 1991, and then to the position of paralegal for partner Richard M. Stern in 1996. She now serves as senior paralegal assisting the firm in representing clients in estate planning, trust administration, probate, corporate and business transactions. As a long-standing member of the firm, Scavia also serves as firm administrator, providing sup-

port in general administration, and supervising the staff and paralegals, including training and staffing.

Scavia's broad experience, knowledge in estate planning and dedication to the firm and its clients make her an asset to Boner Stern & Sipple. The firm represents clients in estate planning matters, working with successive generations within the same family in many cases. She has had the opportunity to assist families from the inception of an initial estate plan through trust administration, carrying out clients' wishes during and after their lifetime.

Scavia has provided critical support to the firm's partners, assisting their efforts to benefit The San Diego Foundation and the Copley Family YMCA and



other nonprofit organizations. Scavia completed undergraduate courses at San Diego State University, obtained her paralegal certificate from Cuyamaca College in 1996, and has since completed substantial continuing education coursework.

### Paula B. Smoogen

Baker & McKenzie LLP  
12544 High Bluff Drive,  
3rd Floor  
San Diego, CA 92130-3051  
(858) 523-6200

Paula Smoogen is a senior paralegal in Baker & McKenzie's Dispute Resolution Practice Group. She joined the firm in November 2000, and is resident in the San Diego office, where she is paralegal manager.

Smoogen specializes in securities class action and derivative claims, complex commercial litigation and intellectual property litigation.

She has been practicing as a paralegal in San Diego since 1984. Prior to joining Baker & McKenzie, she was a litigation paralegal at Kirby Noonan Lance & Hoge and before that, a paralegal at Solomon Ward Seidenwurm & Smith.

Smoogen attended San Diego State University, where she studied business and political science.

Smoogen is an active participant in the firm's pro bono initiatives, and volunteers as an educational advocate for developmentally challenged children and young adults.



She is a member of the International Paralegal Management Association.

### Cindy L. Waller

Pope, Berger, & Williams LLP  
550 W. C St., Suite 1400  
San Diego, CA 92101  
(619) 234-1222

Cindy Waller is a paralegal with Pope, Berger, & Williams LLP in the fields of employment law, and civil and business litigation. She prepares motions and briefs, conducts legal research and online investigations, prepares litigation plans, independently develops case strategy, prepares and responds to discovery, and maintains extensive contact with clients.

Waller consistently delivers the highest quality work under strict deadlines, and is

skilled in prioritizing multiple projects, time management and problem solving. She works with a high level of professional demeanor and confidentiality.

In the first six years of the firm's existence, Waller also was responsible for setting up the office and was in charge of the day-to-day operations, including personnel, administration and billing.

Before joining Pope, Berger, & Williams, she served as a paralegal for Haasis, Pope & Correll in San Diego from 1989 to 1996 and for Aguirre & Meyer from 1987 to 1989. Prior to that she worked in customer service for Pacific Southwest Airlines.

Waller received her bache-



lor's degree in political science in 1983 from San Diego State University. She completed the Lawyer's Assistant Program at the University of San Diego in 1987.