

## THE ROLE OF AREA DIRECTOR 1, 2, AND 3

Area Directors are required to either reside or be employed within their specific area 1, 2, or 3. Their role involves providing awareness and representation for that particular area.

### DISCLAIMER:

The candidate information provided has been published exactly as submitted by candidates and has not been edited or verified by NALA.

## CANDIDATE FOR AREA 3 DIRECTOR: KRISTINE CUSTODIO SUERO, ACP



**Paralegal Since:** 05/05/2003

**NALA Member Since:** 01/01/2006

**Educational Background:** Our Share: Employee Ownership as a Wealth Sharing Tool, Certificate, Rutgers University, 2023 | Diversity, Equity & Inclusion in the Workplace Certificate, University of South Florida, 2023 | US Institute of Diplomacy and Human Rights, Human Rights Education Training Certificate, 2022 | International Leadership Association, Leadership Education Academy, 2021 | Anti-Defamation League, Glass Leadership Institute, 2020 | San Diego County District Attorney, Citizens' Academy, 2016 | JAMS Certification in Alternative

Dispute Resolution, 2012 | \*Advanced Certified Paralegal – National Association of Legal Assistants | e-Discovery, January 2016 | Trial Practice, July 2010 | Discovery, October 2009 | Certified Paralegal, National Association of Legal Assistants, 2006 | Human Resource Management Certificate, University of California at San Diego, Extension, 2006 | Paralegal Certificate, University of California at San Diego, Extension, 2004 | B.A., Bachelor of Arts, Human Development, 1999, California State University, Long Beach (Dean's Honor List)

**Professional Certification/Awards:** San Diego Business Journal HR & Diversity Professionals of the Year & Women of Influence in Law Honoree, 2023 | Global100 Most Influential Filipina Women in the World – Builders, Filipina Women's Network, November 2, 2022 | California Paralegal of the Year, California Alliance of Paralegal Associations, 2020 | Woman of the Year Finalist, San Diego Magazine Celebrate Women, 2019 | Lifetime Achievement Award, San Diego Paralegal Association, December 4, 2018 | Rising Star Award, Philippine American Business Improvement & Development (for utilizing professional skills in the service of community), December 8, 2017 | Service Recognition Award, California Alliance of Paralegal Associations, February 4, 2017 | President's Service Recognition Award, San Diego Paralegal Association, June 22, 2017 | Certificate of Recognition - Leadership and Service, Assemblymember Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher, December 8, 2016 | Service Recognition Award, San Diego Paralegal Association, December 6, 2012 | 100 Most Influential Filipina Women in the U.S. – Founders & Pioneers, Filipina Women's Network, August 31, 2012 | Lambda Epsilon Chi, National Honor Society for Paralegal/Legal Assistant Studies (UCSD Chapter) Inductee, February 15, 2011 | Top Paralegal Finalist, San Diego Daily Transcript, 2009

**Volunteer Activities:** National Association of Legal Assistants (NALA) – Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee, Chair, 2022 to present | Professional Development Committee Member, 2017 to 2022 | Continuing Education Council Member, 2014-2017 | Ethics Chair (Professional Development Committee), 2009-2010 | LEAP Leadership Training Program, Class of 2012-2013 | California Alliance of Paralegal Associations (CAPA) – Board Member, 2011 to present | Board Advisor, 2017 to present | President, 2015-2016 | Vice President of Policy, 2012-2014 | Interim Vice President of Administration, 2012 | Commission on the Status of Women & Girls, County of San Diego, Commissioner, March 2023 to present | University of California, Santa Barbara Professional & Continuing Education Women in Leadership Advisory Board, Member, November 2021 to present | Center for Judicial Education and Research Advisory Committee, Member, September 2021 to present | City of San Diego, Citizens Equal Opportunity Commission, Commissioner, Dec. 2013 to present, Chair, 2016 to 2020

**Membership in other Associations:** San Diego Paralegal Association (SDPA) -President (2010-2011), NALA Liaison (2007 to present), and CAPA Liaison (2011-2014) -Vice President (2006-2010, 2018 to present), NALA Liaison & Director, 2006-2013 | University of San Diego, Paralegal Program – Advisory Board Member, 2007 to present | American Association for Paralegal Education (AAfPE), Member, January 2020 to present | International Leadership Association, Member, 2021 to present | International Practice Management Association, Member, 2021 to present | Silayan Filipina National Organization, Director of Education (2017-2019), Member, 2017 to present | Filipino American Chamber of Commerce of San Diego, Secretary/Member, 2015 to present | Filipina Women's Network, Member, 2013 to present | Rancho Peñasquitos Town Council, Member (District 4), 2013-2017

**Other Qualifications or Comments:** I am also a paralegal educator for the University of San Diego School of Law Paralegal Program. I have a passion for education and helping others to attain success in their careers as a career coach. I actively mentor paralegal students and new paralegals as well as other business professionals seeking to level up in their careers. In my professional role as a Senior Paralegal/Business Development Director for my law firm, my skill set includes legal operations, administration, marketing, business development and community relations. I have extensive experience with event planning, content development and programming. I frequently present to various organizations (including NALA) on legal and ethics issues and leadership/professional development. I author a wide variety of articles for many publications, including NALA's Facts & Findings magazine. I am involved with several legal professional organizations in their respective Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committees and devote much of my time to building relationships and community as well as developing strategies to create inclusive environments and opportunities for learning and growth for all. Additionally, the 17 years I served as an administrator for my family's business, an adult residential facility for developmentally disabled adults, propelled my work of inclusion.

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**Without strong leaders, often associations struggle to succeed. What are three values you believe you demonstrate as a leader? Take each trait and explain how that value would add benefit to your service on the NALA Board.**

In the 15 years of my volunteer service with NALA as past Ethics Chair, Continuing Education Council member, Professional Development Committee member and now Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee Chair, I have supported the growth that we experienced as an organization in our leadership including our Chief Executive Officers, Presidents, Directors, volunteers, fellow members and our amazing staff, ultimately what is NALA. In my own leadership journey, I have grown and learned from observing and connecting with others. The importance of building **connections** with our colleagues, peers and friends strengthens NALA and our profession. By actively listening to each other, boldly testing ideas and getting directly into the arena time and again, my **commitment** to our profession helped build my character and **courage**, knowing who I am and proceeding with my moral compass in check. As Theodore Roosevelt stated: "... there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if [s]he fails, at least fails while **daring greatly...**" [emphasis added]

**Watch Kristine's candidate video [here](#).**