

2026-2027 BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

THE ROLE OF AREA 1, 2, 3 DIRECTORS

Area directors are required to either reside or be employed within areas 1, 2, or 3. Their role involves fulfilling the duties assigned to them by the Board officers. These directors will serve a two-year term.

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: B.A., Bachelor of Arts, Human Development, 1999, California State University, Long Beach (Dean's Honor List)

Professional Certification/Awards: Women of Influence in the Law Honoree, San Diego Business Journal, June 24, 2024 | Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Leader of Influence Honoree, San Diego Business Journal, May 27, 2024

| Women in Leadership, Executive Professional Certificate, UC Santa Barbara Extension, 2024 | 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 | Global100 Most Influential Filipina Women in the World – Builders, Filipina Women's Network, November 2, 2022 | US Institute of Diplomacy and Human Rights, Human Rights Education Training Certificate, 2022 | International Leadership Association, Leadership Education Academy, 2021 | California Paralegal of the Year, California Alliance of Paralegal Associations, 2020 | Anti-Defamation League, Glass Leadership Institute, 2020 | President's Service Recognition Award, San Diego Paralegal Association, June 22, 2017 | San Diego County District Attorney, Citizens' Academy, 2016 | 100 Most Influential Filipina Women in the U.S. – Founders & Pioneers, Filipina Women's Network, August 31, 2012 | 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, UC San Diego Extension, 2006 | Paralegal Certificate, UC San Diego Extension, 2004

Volunteer Activities: American Association for Paralegal Education (AAfPE), Outreach Committee Member, January 2020 to present | Commission on the Status of Women & Girls, County of San Diego, Commissioner, March 2023 to present, Vice Chair, December 2023 to 2024, Chair, December 2024 to present | JFK School of Law Advisory Board, Member, 2025 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 September 2024 | City of San Diego, Citizens Equal Opportunity Commission, Commissioner, Dec. 2013 to Sept. 2023, Chair, 2016 to 2020 | International Leadership Association, Member, 2021 to 2023 | International Practice Management Association, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee Member, 2021 to present; CA Co-Chair, 2026 to present | National Association of Legal Assistants (NALA) Area 3 Director, 2024 to present; Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee, Chair, 2022 to 2024, Ex Officio, 2025; 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 2016; Board Advisor, 2017 to 2024; President, 2015-2016; Vice President of Policy, 2012-2014; Interim Vice President of Administration, 2012 | Rancho Peñasquitos Town Council, Member (District 4), 2013-2017 | San Diego County Bar Association Community Service Executive Committee Member, 2012 | 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

Membership in Other Associations: American Association for Paralegal Education (AAfPE) | Filipina Women's Network | International Practice Management Association (IPMA) | San Diego Paralegal Association (SDPA) | Silayan Filipina National Organization

Other Qualifications or Comments: I bring a unique, systems-level perspective to leadership grounded in nearly two decades of service across legal practice, education, professional associations, and public commissions. My career bridges day-to-day paralegal practice with national thought leadership, governance, and policy-informed advocacy. I have extensive experience working within board and committee structures, including executive leadership roles, and I am well-versed in fiduciary responsibility, strategic planning, and consensus-driven decision-making. As an educator and curriculum designer, I focus on future-ready competencies, ethical technology adoption, legal operations, and workforce development, ensuring that professional standards evolve alongside the realities of modern legal practice. My work as a nationally published author, frequent speaker, and podcast co-host reflects a long-standing commitment to elevating the paralegal profession through evidence-based insight, inclusion, and professional excellence. In parallel, my service on civic commissions and advisory boards has strengthened my ability to collaborate across disciplines, manage complex stakeholder interests, and translate mission into measurable impact. I am deeply committed to advancing NALA's mission and supporting paralegals at every stage of their careers through principled leadership, innovation, and service.

Serving on the board of directors of a national association requires a unique skill set that includes passion for the profession, an understanding of the association's mission and vision, and the ability to commit time and energy to advancing the strategic goals of the association. Tell us why serving on the NALA Board of Directors is important to you. Share your achievements related to board service and how your experience makes you suitable for the position.

Serving on the NALA Board of Directors matters to me because this profession has given me so much, and I feel a real responsibility to give back in a meaningful way. For me, this role is about service. It is about showing up, listening, and helping create space for others to grow and lead.

Over the years, I have had the opportunity to serve at the local, state, and national levels, including my current role as NALA Area 3 Director. I have focused on building stronger connections with our affiliates, supporting practical professional development, and making sure paralegals feel seen, heard, and supported wherever they are in their careers.

My work as a senior paralegal, educator, and speaker keeps me closely connected to what is happening on the ground. I understand the challenges and opportunities our members are navigating, from evolving workplace demands to the growing role of technology and legal operations.

I lead with a service mindset and a focus on community. I care deeply about this work, and I am committed to helping NALA continue to grow in a way that supports and empowers every member.

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