

The Daily Transcript presents San Diego Paralegals 2010

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San Diego County paralegals, attorneys and legal experts had the opportunity to nominate outstanding paralegals in their field. The nomination process began in January, with 31 nominations submitted.

A panel of independent judges scored the nominees, based on the following five criteria.

Hard-Working and Detail-Oriented: The best paralegals conduct their business with honesty and integrity.

Professionalism: Paralegals who treat their colleagues and counterparts with respect also earn respect, and act as

role models for others.

Community Outreach: Paralegals can pave the way for altruism by giving of themselves through pro bono work and volunteering.

Enthusiasm: Though difficult to teach, enthusiasm is easy to recognize. Paralegals who have it make the people with whom they work stay focused and optimistic. What better way to combat cynicism for our legal system?

"X-Factor": Some paralegals have that special something that makes them stand out from their peers.

Scoring was done on the

following scale: 5 points possible for honesty and integrity (weighted x3); 5 points possible for professionalism (weighted x2); 5 points possible for community outreach; 5 points possible for enthusiasm and teamwork; and 5 extra points possible for the x-factor; for a possible total of 40 points.

The panel met on Feb. 10 at *The Daily Transcript* offices to pick the finalists.

The Daily Transcript is privileged to present the peer-nominated and independently judged best and brightest in San Diego's paralegal arena.

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Laurel Scott

Kirby Noonan Lance & Hoge

Laurel Scott is a civil litigation paralegal with the firm of Kirby Noonan Lance & Hoge. After graduating from San Diego State University with a bachelor's degree in history in 1973, she was fortunate enough to be hired as the relief receptionist at Luce Forward Hamilton & Scripps. Within the year, Scott was working for a young associate, Ernie Wideman, and was part of the team that formed the fledgling firm of Post Kirby Wideman & Noonan in 1976.

After having her son in 1978, Scott returned to the legal profession part time as a contract legal secretary in 1979, and was exposed to many legal specialties, which

further developed her enthusiasm for the law. In 1985, she began the UCSD paralegal certificate program and in 1986, returned to her roots, the law firm renamed Post Kirby Noonan & Sweat. As a paralegal at a top-notch firm, she learned from mentor Laurel Stepp how to deal with the demands of law firm civil litigation, and the necessity of producing a consistently excellent work product.

During her 23 years at the firm now named Kirby Noonan Lance & Hoge, Scott has seen the firm's paralegals have gone from indexing boxes of documents in Word Perfect to indexing tens of thousands of documents in Concordance databases, viewing Opticon images and never seeing the hard copy. Scott has



assisted the firm's attorneys at trials representing plaintiffs and defendants in actions ranging from personal injury and wrongful termination, to antitrust, complex breach of contract and fraud, legal malpractice and class actions.