

NALA RISING STAR

NALA PROUDLY PRESENTS THE 2021 AWARD TO

Julianne Di Benedetto

Nomination Submitted by Lori A. Swanson, ACP

Julianne Di Benedetto is the Senior Supervising Paralegal at her employer's law firm. She is involved in the hiring process, training, and mentoring interns and other paralegals in the office. She serves in the following areas: the Chair of the Illinois Paralegal Association's West Suburban Section; the Vice President & Alumni Liaison of the College of DuPage (COD) Paralegal Studies Program Paralegal Club; the Vice President & Alumni Liaison of the College of DuPage's chapter of the AAFPE's (American Association for Paralegal and Legal Education) Lambda Epsilon Chi (LEX) National Paralegal Honor Society; and as a member of COD's Paralegal Studies Program Advisory Council for several years. Julianne is the Peer Reviewer Coordinator for COD's Paralegal Studies Program Expos. Held three times per year, the Expo is the capstone course for paralegal students. She is also an evaluator/peer reviewer for the presenting students.

In October 2019, Julianne gave a presentation to COD's Paralegal Studies Program Advisory Council regarding the importance of paralegal certifications and how to encourage COD paralegal students to earn their credentials. She plans to earn a NALA credential later this year, and then work with the COD Paralegal Studies Program Coordinator and the Continuing Education Program members to develop a course/courses to help COD paralegal students prepare for the paralegal certification exams.

As an evaluator/peer reviewer for COD's Paralegal Studies Program Expos, Julianne engages in mock interviews with the presenting students and discusses potential ethical scenarios and how the students would handle themselves in those situations.

Each year, the COD Student Life organization hosts an awards ceremony for all clubs and organizations on campus. Last year, Julianne nominated Paralegal Studies Program adjunct faculty member and Paralegal Club/LEX Co-Advisor, Linda Jenkins, for the Club Advisor of the Year award. Linda Jenkins is the epitome of a leader and guided the Paralegal Club and LEX student officers through the uncertain times of the pandemic, reached out to club officers consistently to check on their welfare, and made sure that the Paralegal Club continued to run smoothly despite moving to a virtual format. Linda Jenkins was the recipient of the Club Advisor of the Year award for the 2019-2020 school year.

NALA offers the Founders' Award to recognize contributions to the paralegal profession. Julianne is currently drafting a nomination for COD's Paralegal Studies Program Coordinator, Sally N. Fairbank, for her dedication to bettering the paralegal profession. Despite the difficult transition to remote learning, Sally ensured that the program continued to serve the students. While COD has seen a decrease in enrollment since the pandemic, Sally's Paralegal Studies Program saw an increase in enrollment – a testament to the success of the program and the dedication of the faculty.



To learn more about the NALA Awards program and all the awards we offer, please visit our website.

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