

## The 2016 LAPA Student Member Scholarship Awardee: Cynthia Casteneda

by Yvonne Kubicek – LAPA Director

As part of its mission in developing, strengthening and advancing the paralegal profession for over ten years, the Los Angeles Paralegal Association (“LAPA”) has recognized and honored a student’s academic achievement in a paralegal program with the LAPA Student Member Scholarship Award. This year, during LAPA’s October Conference held on Saturday, October 22, 2016, LAPA awarded Cynthia Casteneda with the LAPA Student Member Scholarship Award with a \$1,000 scholarship.

The criteria for being eligible for this award include (1) being a student member in good standing of LAPA, (2) be a current part- or full-time student in a paralegal program in California, (3) maintain a GPA of 3.5 or higher and (4) an applicant must illustrate their dedication to volunteerism or community service activities or demonstrate leadership skills by participating in campus or other paralegal program activities. Cynthia met or exceeded these criteria.

Cynthia began her quest in becoming a paralegal several years ago but as often happens, life and work precluded her from fulfilling her goal. Ten years later, she found herself in a different work situation



LAPA Director Yvonne Kubicek (L) with Student Member Scholarship Awardee Cynthia Casteneda (R)

and ready to have a child. After the birth of her son and overcoming other challenges, Cynthia decided to go back to school to finish what she had started. Cynthia is now half-way through the Paralegal Training Program at Cal State Los Angeles where she has maintained a 3.567 GPA in addition to raising her 17-month old son. Cynthia also volunteers her time with Operation School Bell, a project that helps distribute backpacks and school supplies to underserved elementary-age school children within the Los Angeles Unified School District.

Please help us congratulate Cynthia Castaneda for receiving the 2016 Los Angeles Paralegal Association’s Student Member Scholarship. Well done Cynthia!

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contributions to the goals and programs of an affiliated association, such as LAPA.

Ms. Tabb, ACP, a graduate of National University’s Paralegal Studies Bachelor’s Degree Program and a LAPA member for over a decade, is a Paralegal at the U.S. Attorney’s Office within the Cyber & Intellectual Property Crimes Unit in downtown Los Angeles. She is currently pursuing a Master of Science Degree in Legal Studies from Loyola Law School. [\*\*LAPA congratulates the 2016 Lifetime Achievement Awardee, Michelle Tabb, ACP!\*\*](#)