

Why Become a CCLS?
Written By: April Ignaitis, CCLS
Santa Clara County Legal Professionals Association

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Good afternoon everybody. My name is April Ignaitis, CCLS! First and foremost, I want to give thanks and glory to God. Without him, I would not be standing up here today. He has been beside me on this journey, which started a year ago when I came to my first annual conference (for that matter, my very first conference ever), with my good friend, Maria Patterson. She convinced me to come and I'm glad she did. She has also encouraged me to take a more active role in our local association (go SCCoLPA!) and become more involved. Which I have. And I have to say, it has been a load of fun. We have such a great group of people on our Board and I'm proud and honored to be a part of it and a member of SCCoLPA. I also want to thank Elise Dresser, who was been very supportive and generous of her time and words of wisdom. Also, to my friend, Vivian Shreve, who put in her own time to help me study, I want to again say thank you.

I sat where you are today and watched people tell their stories. I was inspired and moved. All of us have a story to tell and each of us has taken different paths to get here. With God's grace I am here today telling you mine.

Before my first annual conference, I did not know what a CCLS was. Upon hearing such inspiring stories I decided then and there that come this time next year, this is where I wanted to be, up here talking to you. It was a long journey, there were bumps in the road and at times I asked myself what I got myself into. It just seemed like a pipe dream, a long shot. But with a lot of prayer, faith, support from my family and friends at SCCoLPA I made it through.

This journey has taught me that no goal, no dream is out of reach, no matter how far out there it may seem. It has also taught me to have faith in the One that always has my back. The trials and storms of this journey we call life make us stronger and gives us confidence to dream even bigger. No one said it would be easy, because if it was, then everyone would be doing it.

A Fun Fact: - A Hummingbird's heart can beat up to 1260 a minute. God loves to pack a lot of power into simple small and unassuming things.

I hope my story has inspired you to take a leap of faith and begin your journey. I hope to see you up here next year. Thank you.