

Kerry Rapanot, CFA Named January Volunteer of the Month



For over 10 years, our 2016 January Volunteer of the Month has helped coordinate CFA Society Los Angeles' largest event, CFALA's Economic & Investments Forecast Dinner hosted annually in the month of January. Kerry Gawne Rapanot, CFA is the current Past President of CFALA and has served on the Economic & Investments Forecast Dinner Committee for over a decade. Rapanot's longstanding devotion to volunteering for CFALA is motivated by a variety of passionate pursuits, which prominently include promoting ethics and providing resources and support for young professionals and students.

Although Rapanot received her CFA designation in 2000, she joined CFALA in 1999 as an Affiliate member. Rapanot began volunteering to assist in small projects at CFALA before joining the Economic & Investments Forecast Dinner Committee and eventually becoming the Chair. In addition to continuing her role as Forecast Dinner Committee Chair, Rapanot is currently serving in her ninth and final year on the Board of Governors. She was President for the 2014-2015 term, which oversaw the launch of a new website and move into a new office space.

"There have been a lot of people who have helped me out along the way," Rapanot explained. "The CFA program and the charter has helped me immensely in my career over the years. In order to keep that going you have to give back and help those who are coming up."

In her duties as the Forecast Dinner Chair, Rapanot maintains and strengthens CFALA's relationship with the California Council on Economic Education (CCEE), a leading nonprofit provider of economics and financial literacy training and resources to K-12 teachers and students in California, to host the annual Financial Advisors Contest (FAC). CFALA raises funds for CCEE's financial literacy programs through the Annual Economic & Investments Forecast Dinner. In addition, for over 10 years, CFALA has provided mentors, graders and judges for students and teachers participating in the FAC.

"I continued with [volunteering for the Forecast Dinner] because of the link to CCEE and giving back to the local community means a lot to me," Rapanot said. "Having the teachers come in and express how much of a difference the money is having on the ground-level is really inspiring and makes me want to continue year after year to give back. When you see what the money is doing, it really inspires you to work harder and do more."

Rapanot's enduring participation at CFALA has been marked by an emphasis on imparting knowledge and tools for future generations to achieve success. On a macro-level, she hopes to raise awareness concerning the importance that CFA Institute places on ethical behavior in finance and the value derived from attaining the CFA designation by elevating ethical standards in the industry.

"I think it's important for the general public to understand what CFA members are tested on the ethical portion on an annual basis," Rapanot explained. "If people understand what CFA

charterholders represent and are attesting to, it might create a little more demand on the client side for those who are attesting to these ethical standards.”

Rapanot has worked at Payden & Rygel since 2002 and is currently the Senior Vice President. She has previously worked as an Associate at Salomon Smith Barney, TD Wealth Management Services Inc., and Canada Trust. Rapanot received her B.A. in Business Administration at Wilfrid Laurier University in Ontario, Canada.