



ALGA

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2025 RISING STAR AWARD RECIPIENTS!

The ALGA Awards Program Committee is pleased to announce **Carissa Nash** and **Selena Wong** as this year's recipients of the Rising Star Award.

ALGA's **Rising Star Award** (<https://algaonline.org/page/rising-star>) recognizes the best and brightest among newer local government audit professionals and encourages others to strive for excellence early in their audit careers. The award aims to spotlight newer local government auditors' personal initiative and commitments that positively impact the local government auditing profession.

Carissa Nash, Principal Performance Auditor

City of San Diego, California, Office of the City Auditor



Since joining the City of San Diego Office of the City Auditor (OCA) in 2020, Carissa has demonstrated exemplary audit and leadership skills that have led to her promotions from performance auditor to senior performance auditor, and now to serving on OCA's management team as principal performance auditor. She also obtained her CIA in 2024.

Carissa does an excellent job developing the staff on her audits. She provides continuous feedback and works hard to develop their audit, communication, and project management skills. As a result, staff auditors have developed quickly while working with Carissa. In addition, Carissa took the lead on developing several of our onboarding trainings, which have been essential to acculturating new staff to audit concepts, skills, and standards.

Carissa proactively seeks out opportunities to develop herself and our staff and processes, as well as the profession as a whole. She led the creation of OCA's new Teambuilding Team in response to OCA's annual Employee Satisfaction Survey results, which showed that staff wanted more opportunities for teambuilding and collaboration given OCA's hybrid work environment.

What the judges said

Judges were impressed with this nominee's leadership skills and exemplary services to their shop. The nominee takes on challenging projects successfully using research, creative methodologies, clear and persuasive writing, and effective communication. Two of their audits have won Knighton Awards and a third was nominated this year. One of the winning reports was of Police Body Camera Use, where the nominee and audit team analyzed multiple data sets and watched over 100 hours of body camera footage. The team also conducted extensive benchmarking with other law enforcement agencies' body camera policies, practices, and performance; the compelling audit persuaded the police department leadership that changes needed to be made, and they agreed to all recommendations.

The judges were further impressed with the nominee's contributions to their shop, as well as the audit profession. The nominee developed a dashboard to track numerous key milestone dates and progress of all audits in one place. They were also a key contributor to a City Auditor Style Guide Update. The nominee provided contributions to ALGA through an article in the Quarterly on their City Auditor's risk assessment methodology; they also have served as a moderator at the ALGA conference.

This nominee demonstrates business acumen, advocacy, and innovative service by proactively seeking opportunities to develop self, staff, and processes. The nominee has obtained their CIA and has helped modernize the look and feel of the City's reports, making them more accessible to stakeholders. They have also created a Teambuilding Team to provide opportunities for teambuilding and collaboration in the hybrid work environment. These activities have increased the City Auditor's employee satisfaction rating to 100%.
