Kathleen Ritzman is Assistant Director of UC San Diego’s Scripps Institution of Oceanography where she oversees the Office of Institutional Planning, Government Relations, Strategic Partnerships, and Events.

The Office provides leadership and services through a variety of programs and activities facilitating extramural funding at the federal, state and local levels, promoting strategic collaboration with external partners, and engaging key external stakeholders and supporters. Program areas within her portfolio include institutional strategic planning, positioning, and partnerships; research development; government, corporate and international relations; institutional events and venue management; and issue and project management.

Assistant Director Ritzman is an expert on environment, energy and defense research appropriations, federal budget, and environment and science policy issues. The U.S. academic research fleet, sustained environmental observations and support for sea-going research are of particular importance to her. For more than 20 years, she has been an effective advocate for increased at-sea research and recapitalization of the academic fleet. Her work with Congress and federal agencies on these issues has been instrumental to Scripps ship operations and sustaining, critical long-term observing systems. Ms. Ritzman is Matron of Honor of R/V Sally Ride.

Ms. Ritzman received her B.A. in Political Science with a Minor in English Literature from UC San Diego's Revelle College (Phi Beta Kappa, Magna Cum Laude). Before coming to Scripps, Ms. Ritzman worked for the US House of Representatives on the Energy and Commerce Committee and the University of California’s Office of Federal Government Relations. She has been at Scripps since 1993.