



**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**  
Equality On and Off the Field



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**EVENT CALENDAR**  
Annual Dinner: Our Future, Our Choice, Our Rights!  
Bench Bar Luncheon



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Lawyers Club welcomes contributions to the newsletter, as well as your comments and suggestions regarding Lawyers Club News; contact Suzanne Pollack at [suzanne.pollack@lewisbrisbois.com](mailto:suzanne.pollack@lewisbrisbois.com).

The deadline for articles is the 1st of the month prior to the month of publication. Articles should be submitted in Microsoft Word. The advertising deadline is the 1st of the month prior to the month of publication. For advertising information, contact Ashley Carbonell at [ashley@lawyersclubsd.com](mailto:ashley@lawyersclubsd.com).

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

# EQUALITY ON AND OFF THE FIELD



We have been led to believe that sports are gender-segregated because women cannot physically compete with men in sporting



events. But history tells a different story. In the 1900s, sports were generally not segregated by gender. In 1902, Madge Syers beat two men for the silver medal and became the first woman to compete at the World Figure Skating Championships. In response, the International Skating Union barred women from the competition, reasoning that if a judge is romantically involved with a female athlete he would not score fairly, and it was "difficult to compare women with men." (*How Women's Sports Teams Got Their Start*, The New York Times, April 28, 2022.)

In 1922, 19-year-old college swimmer Sybil Bauer beat the record held by a man in the 440-yard backstroke. In 1931, 17-year-old Jackie Mitchel played as a pitcher for the Chattanooga Lookouts, an all-male minor league baseball team. She struck out Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig during a game against the New York Yankees. Afterwards, she faced rumors that the strikeouts were staged, and the baseball commission then voided her contract. In 1992, Zhang Shang of China beat male competitors to win the Olympic gold medal in shotgun skeet shooting. But the International Shooting Union decided that women could no longer compete with men in that event, and segregating the event by gender at the next Olympic games.

Despite these stories, women athletes constituted a large minority. In the late 19th century, women educators in high schools and colleges began forming women's sports teams, but with modified rules to avoid contact, exertion, and to avoid damaging their reproductive organs.

2022 marks the 50th anniversary of the passing of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1970 – the landmark gender equality legislation prohibiting gender discrimination in sports. In 2021, Title IX was extended to transgender athletes. Title IX has had a significant impact on athletics, admissions, assault reporting, among other things. In 2021, there were more than 219,000 female college athletes, making up 44% of college athletes, compared with just 30,000 in 1972.

Despite these advances, 50 years later women still experience discrimination in sports. For example, the United States women's national soccer team participated in a hard-fought battle to earn the same pay as their male colleagues. Last year a viral Tik Tok video during the National Collegiate Athletic Association women's basketball tournament showed the women's "weight room" with one small stack of weights, compared with the men's fully stocked gym. The NCAA later apologized.

It is a difficult and loaded question as to whether women and men should compete on the same team. But what we do know is that all women and all genders should have the *same access to opportunity* to compete in sports, and all are entitled to equal pay.



# UNITED WE RISE

## PAST, PRESENT AND A LOOK BACK Former Executive Director Joan Friedenbergs' Impact on Lawyers Club

"If you can get Joan, grab her," said Advisory Board member Hon. Anthony Joseph in 2005, when Joan Friedenbergs' application to serve as executive director was under consideration at Lawyers Club. By 2005, Friedenbergs had already retired twice from her public sector and nonprofit careers. Colleagues describe her commitment to the San Diego Community as "obvious and strong." She has served as: County health educator; County director of mental health; deputy director of alcohol and drug services; 20-year board member of the local American Heart Association; associate executive for the Girl Scouts and more – including, of course, her service to Lawyers Club.

Friedenbergs remembers how the seeds for service-oriented work were sowed early on. As a child, she had been excited to join the Campfire Girls of America, only to be told by the local troop leader that she could not be a member of that particular troop because she was Jewish. She was 6-years-old at the time she received this harsh life lesson. In response, Friedenbergs' mom became the leader of her new Girl Scout troop instead, and Friedenbergs' passion for service was born. Years later when she retired from the County, Friedenbergs served as a board member for the Girl Scouts and as associate executive director of the local Girl Scout Council, illustrating her commitment to organizations

she cares about that have had a positive impact on her – "like Lawyers Club," she remarked.



Joan Friedenbergs

Friedenbergs served as executive director of Lawyers Club from September 2005 through the fall of 2011. Former executive director Elaine Lawrence says, "Joan worked tirelessly during her tenure to fortify Lawyers Club's operations. Having set this great example of fiscal priority, Joan gave me a solid foundation with which to grow the organization." Among Friedenbergs' achievements, she lists her pride in establishing Lawyers Club's law student scholarships at all three San Diego law schools, greatly increasing student membership thanks to a generously sponsored student membership drive, increasing Lawyers Club's overall membership to record heights, and working with the Hon. Patricia Cowett (Ret.) to form the Bradley Bunch.

One of the retirement gifts Friedenbergs received is displayed in her home. It is a statue of a female figure juggling with both hands and feet. The gift came from administrative coordinator Vickie Frank because Friedenbergs described her role at Lawyers Club as "juggling a thousand water balloons at a time." Why water balloons and not spinning plates, one might



wonder of the analogy? “Because,” Friedenberg said, “it’s a reminder that it’s just a broken water balloon. Some are going to fall. And they’re going to break. It isn’t life or death, and it’s good to remember that.” Friedenberg recalled how life and death matters were a staple aspect in her earlier career when her work focused on public health, addiction, and mental health issues.



Today, Friedenberg maintains her ongoing commitment to Lawyers Club. She is a proud member of the Bradley Bunch, attends events frequently, and cherishes the many friendships she built. Lawyers Club president Maggie Schroedter commented, “A Patron member for years now and a strong champion of our work, it is apparent how much Lawyers Club still means to Joan. Her depth of care for the organization is remarkable. It’s people like Joan with an indelible spirit for service that help make Lawyers Club so special. We continue to celebrate her and her many contributions.”

Other members say Friedenberg remains a highly valued advisor to Lawyers Club. Bradley Bunch chair Tina Dyer said, “She is often called upon and always happy to answer, which says a lot about the wealth of wisdom she possesses.”

These days, Friedenberg reports that she is enjoying a wonderful retirement with Dave, her spouse of 53 years. She continues her volunteer work, especially with Women Give San Diego and Rotary. She is also an avid golfer, loves to travel, and maintains her spirit for adventure. She and Dave recently returned from a 41-day cruise. When asked where she would like to see Lawyers Club go in its next 50 years, she responded, “It is my hope that Lawyers Club will remain a valuable resource for its members and continue to be viewed for its leadership role in the community in particular.”

In 2011, when Friedenberg retired the third time – this time from Lawyers Club, former board member Rupa Singh said, “While Joan will be dearly missed, her mark on the organization – helping to make it too big to fail and too important to ignore – will be felt long after her tenure, and appreciated forever.” It has been over ten years now since Friedenberg’s retirement, yet these words remain true. Friedenberg shaped Lawyers Club in many meaningful ways during her time as executive director. Lawyers Club remains grateful for her incredible contributions.

Laura H. Handzel, J.D. is the executive director of Lawyers Club.



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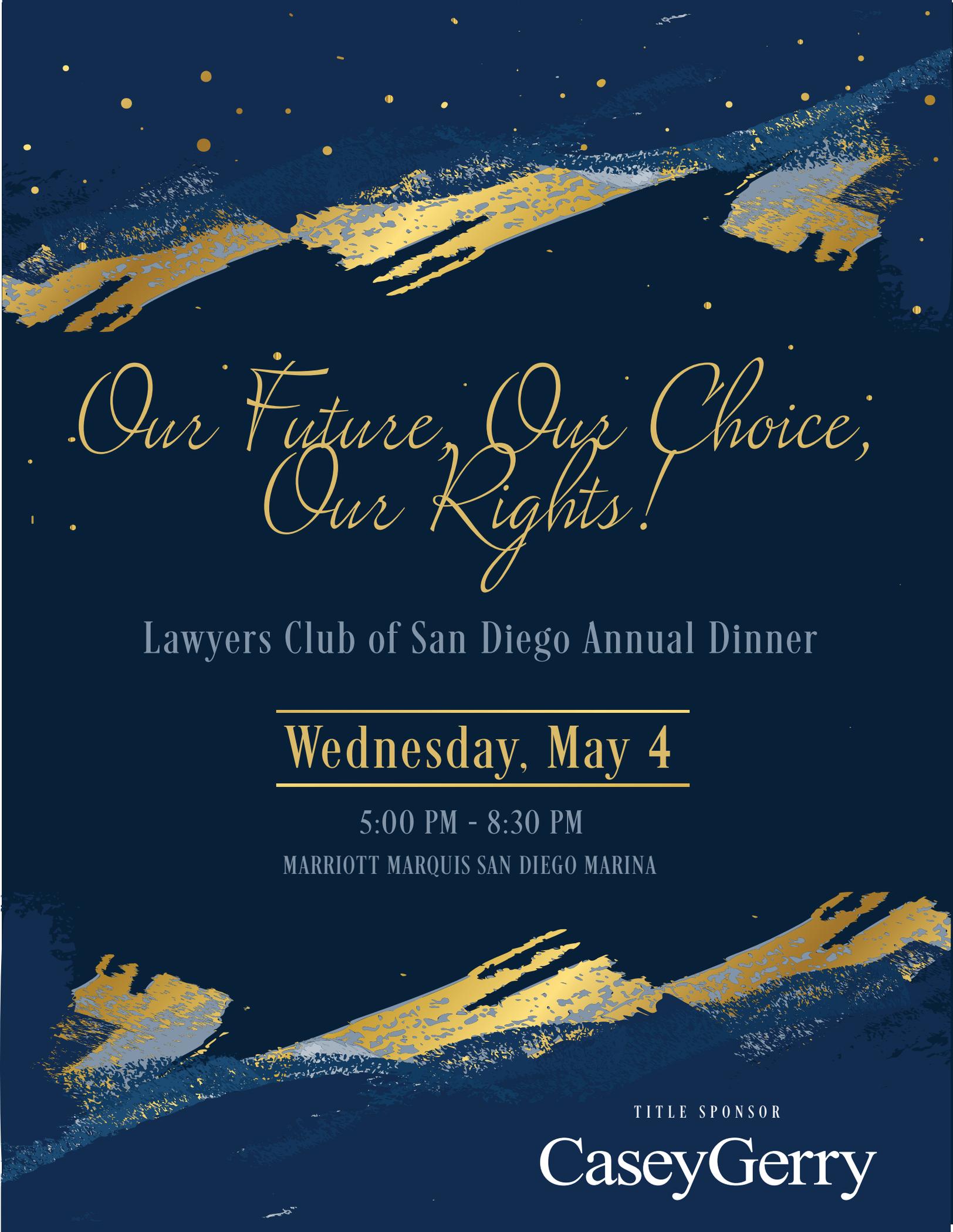


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*Our Future, Our Choice,  
Our Rights!*

Lawyers Club of San Diego Annual Dinner

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Wednesday, May 4

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5:00 PM - 8:30 PM

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# #BreaktheBias

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



**"I DON'T WANT TO BE A LAWYER... THAT'S FOR GIRLS!"**

**– HON. RANDA M. TRAPP (RET.)'S SEVEN-YEAR-OLD SON, SAID MANY YEARS AGO.**

The Diverse Women's Committee and North/Mid-County Committee hosted a virtual program celebrating International Women's Day titled "Breaking Barriers in Law #BreaktheBias" on March 9. The program, generously sponsored by Sheena Sahni of WESTPAC Wealth Partners, further offered an Elimination of Bias MCLE credit for attendees.

The Honorable Randa M. Trapp (Ret.) served as the featured guest speaker. Her presentation not only encouraged the support and growth of women in the law, but also acknowledged women worldwide who have exemplified courage and strength by denouncing inequality.

In citing national statistics, Trapp reminded attendees of how far women still have to go to achieve equity in the legal profession. For example, women lawyers account for 37% of the profession, despite making up 50% of the law student population. Conversely, women paralegals and legal assistants comprise 86% of those positions. Trapp pointed out that even when looking at the highest levels of women in the law in the United States – the Supreme Court – only three of nine justices are women (as of the time of this presentation).

Trapp noted that one of the biggest challenges in the legal profession for women is pay disparity. Male partners earn on average \$959,000 per year, compared to women partners earning \$627,000 per year. Further, 22.7% of law firm partners

are women, and even less women are equity partners – only 19%.

According to Trapp, the only way to begin to achieve pay equity for women in the legal field is through transparency. She emphasized the need to "publish salaries, ask difficult questions, and hold people accountable."

Lawyers Club president Maggie Schrodter commented that the pay disparity topic "really hit close to home," and said, "with not really knowing what our male counterparts are making, there's no real way to achieve pay equity." Schrodter then recalled a story where she advocated for a pay increase and encouraged a female colleague to do the same. Trapp lauded Schrodter's anecdote noting that women can't "be afraid to toot [their] horn...male counterparts do the same."

Trapp reminded attendees to be "bold and unapologetic in support of women." She commented that simply supporting other women isn't enough, but rather, the focus should be on "promoting and championing to move [women] forward."

Trapp concluded with final words of advice for attendees, "Be the woman who fixes another woman's crown, without telling the world it was crooked."

*Maria Chavez is a partner at Jacobs & Schlesinger LLP and a member of the Diverse Women's Committee*



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# Bench Bar Luncheon

## A CONVERSATION WITH JUDGE LADORIS CORDELL (RET.) AND COMMISSIONER PENNIE MCLAUGHLIN

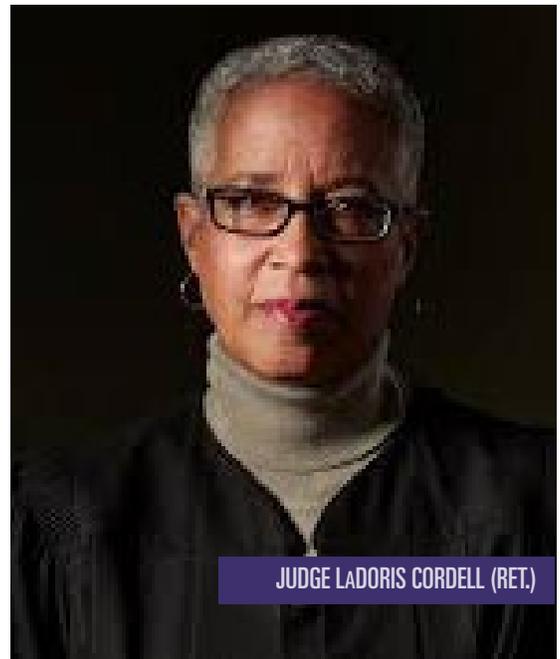
Lawyers Club is honored to host the San Diego judiciary along with Lawyers Club members and the community at its annual Bench Bar luncheon. The event will take place at the new federal courthouse in downtown San Diego, located at 333 W. Broadway, and will be held on Tuesday, May 24 from 11:30am – 1:00pm. The luncheon's generous Title Sponsor is Signature Resolution.

The program will feature a fireside chat with Judge LaDoris Cordell (Ret.) and moderated by Commissioner Pennie McLaughlin of the San Diego Superior Court. The program will take place indoors in the jury lounge. Attendees will then move outdoors to enjoy boxed lunches and table discussions with local judges and attendees in small group discussions.

Cordell was the first African America woman judge in northern California when she was appointed to the municipal court by Governor Jerry Brown in 1982. She thereafter won election to the Santa Clara Superior Court in 1988. After serving 19 years on the bench, she retired from the court and served at Stanford University as vice provost and special counselor to the president for Campus Relations until 2009.

Cordell has also served the community and public in numerous other ways. She was elected in 2003 to Palo Alto's City Council and has served on boards and commissions in oversight roles regarding police departments, jail facilities, racial relations on college campuses, and in reviewing cases of individuals who claim to have been wrongly convicted. She is an advocate for public access to parks and for arts and culture, and is herself an artist, vocalist, and pianist, in addition to being a television legal analyst and commentator. Finally, she is the author of *Her Honor: My Life on the Bench: What Works, What's Broken, and How to Change It*. To read more about Cordell's career, visit her website at [judgecordell.com](http://judgecordell.com). Copies of *Her Honor* are available for purchase at *Celadon Books*.

McLaughlin has served the San Diego Superior Court for 18 years, handling family support, drug court, juvenile court, traffic and small claims courts. Previously, she worked as both a deputy public defender and as an assistant U.S. attorney, and



JUDGE LADORIS CORDELL (RET.)



COMM. PENNIE MCLAUGHLIN

conducted more than 76 jury trials. Among her many honors, in 2021, she was recognized as California Commissioner of the Year and was honored by the National Association of Women Judges with its Excellence Award.

The Bench Bar Committee honors and engages with the judiciary, facilitates meaningful interaction and dialogue among Lawyers Club's members and judges, offers members opportunities to take on leadership roles through programming or publication efforts, and educates its members about the various roles and duties of judicial officers and pathways to the bench.

The Bench Bar Committee hosts events and monthly meetings throughout the year. For more information about the Committee and upcoming events and meetings, contact co-chairs Johanna Schiavoni ([johanna.schiavoni@calapplaw.com](mailto:johanna.schiavoni@calapplaw.com)), Danna Nicholas ([DNicholas@sandiego.gov](mailto:DNicholas@sandiego.gov)) and Daniela Reali ([Daniela.Reali@sdcountry.ca.gov](mailto:Daniela.Reali@sdcountry.ca.gov)).

*Johanna Schiavoni is a certified specialist in appellate law at California Appellate Law Group LLP. She served as the 2013-14 president of Lawyers Club, the 2020 president of the San Diego County Bar Association, and is co-chair of the Bench Bar Committee.*



## Bench Bar Luncheon

Tuesday, May 24, 2022

11:30 AM Check-In

12:00 PM Program

### LOCATION

U.S. District Court for the  
Southern District of California,  
James M. Carter and Judith N. Keep Jury Lounge

333 W. Broadway, San Diego, CA 92101

*Please allow extra time to clear security at the courthouse before this event.*

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# Gender Equity

## THE PLIGHT OF MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN

5,712

The number of known incidents of missing & murdered Native American women in 2016.

[#NotInvisible](#)

Lawyers Club's Gender Equity Committee hosted Mark Vezzola, the directing attorney of California Indian Legal Services in Escondido, one of the oldest non-profit organizations specializing in federal Indian and tribal law in the country. Vezzola currently serves as chief judge of both the Pala Band of Mission Indians in northern San Diego County and the Chemehuevi Indian Tribe in Havasu Lake, California. On March 9, Vezzola gave a presentation to the Committee addressing the plight of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW). He also provided a brief history of the current state of tribal jurisdiction over Indians and non-Indians, particularly in the area of criminal law.

At the start of the presentation, the Committee heard devastating numbers reflecting the stark reality that Indigenous women face. A staggering 84% of Native women have experienced violence in their lifetime, and in 2016 alone, close to 6,000 incidents of missing and murdered Native American women were reported.

Vezzola laid the foundation of Federal Indian law and discussed key cases and legislation that have brought more and more of the crimes committed on tribal land under federal jurisdiction and under certain states' criminal jurisdictions, thus taking these crimes away from tribal jurisdictions and with it, their sovereignty. In *Oliphant v. Suquamish Indian Tribe*, a 1978 Supreme Court case, the Court held that there was a historical presumption that Indian tribes lack criminal jurisdiction over non-Indians in Indian country without congressional authorization.

It was not until 2013, when the Violence Against Women Act was reauthorized, that criminal jurisdiction was conferred back to tribal courts over non-Indians charged with domestic violence against an Indian, with a requirement that certain minimum due process protections be provided such as a law trained judge, laws available to the public, court appointed counsel for low-income defendants, recorded proceedings, and juries representing a cross-section of the community.

Vezzola stressed the importance of tribal criminal jurisdiction over non-Indians, explaining that tribes have an interest in protecting their people and communities. The inability to prosecute wrongdoers on tribal land is a significant hinderance in their sovereignty as many non-Indians live in or visit Indian country and simply excluding them from tribal land is not a perfect remedy to the problems faced and created by denying their jurisdiction.

He then explained what tribes currently have jurisdiction over, which includes: peace and security, family law, civil disputes, housing and land use, child welfare, domestic violence (with certain minimum due process protections in place), natural and cultural resources, and internal governance (such as elections and exclusions).

He further elaborated that when looking through the lens of MMIW, not only are these women's cases regularly overlooked and ignored, but the limitations surrounding tribal criminal jurisdiction often prevents these women from obtaining the justice and peace they deserve.

There is change taking place regarding MMIW. In 2021, Secretary of Interior Deb Haaland, the first Native person to hold this position, created a new murdered and missing unit in the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to prevent the cases and investigations from going cold. Furthermore, the Not Invisible Act of 2019 established, among other things, a commission to reduce violent crimes against indigenous people, led by the Departments of Justice and Interior.

Here, in California, the California Indian Legal Services and other Native American organizations received Legal Assistance for Victims grant funding to serve domestic violence victims in both state and tribal courts, regardless of their gender or tribal affiliations.

There remains more to be done to help the MMIW plight, but attorneys like Vezzola are bringing awareness to the problem and advocating for swift change.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND AT THE FOLLOWING RESOURCES:

- **California Indian Legal Services DV Unit:**  
760-746-8941, ext. 106 or visit [calindian.org/help](http://calindian.org/help)
- **Strong Hearted Native Women's Coalition:**  
760-644-4781 or visit [facebook.com/SHNWCInc](https://facebook.com/SHNWCInc)
- **Rape Abuse Incest National Network:**  
1-800-656-4673 (HOPE)
- **National Domestic Violence Hotline:** 1-800-799-7233
- **National Human Trafficking Hotline:**  
1-888-373-7888/text 233733
- **Native Justice Coalition:** [nativejustice.org](http://nativejustice.org)
- **Global Indigenous Council:**  
[globalindigenouscouncil.com](http://globalindigenouscouncil.com)

84%  
OF  
NATIVE  
WOMEN  
have experienced violence  
in their lifetime.  
SOURCE: National Institute of Justice  
**#NotInvisible**

Sofia De La Rocha is an attorney at Vistage Worldwide, Inc. and a member of the Gender Equity Committee.



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# Red, White & Brew

## RECONNECTING FOR A GOOD CAUSE



Lawyers Club hosted its annual Red, White & Brew by welcoming attendees to another in-person event on March 24. Red, White & Brew provided an opportunity for people to reconnect and drew 160 attendees, including attorneys, judges, law students and local business leaders. Vanst Law generously supported the event as Title Sponsor.

Red, White & Brew successfully raised funds for Fund for Justice, Lawyers Club's charitable arm, which makes grants to various non-profit organizations in the local community serving "at-risk" women and girls. "Red, White and Brew is one of my favorite Lawyers Club events of the year because it brings the community together to raise money for such a great cause. It had been too long since we had the chance to support Fund for Justice in person, so the energy was particularly infectious this year," commented Vivian Adame, associate attorney at Wilson Turner Kosmo LLP.

The outdoor event was held at Stone Brewing World Bistro & Gardens in Liberty Station, which afforded a generous space for attendees to catch up with colleagues and friends. Attendees received a welcome hard seltzer as well as several culinary treats including poke "nachos," vegan spring rolls, sliders, and pretzel bites, each paired with a red wine (Red), white wine (White), or beer (Brew). Michelle Meek, attorney at Buchalter, shared "it's wonderful to be reunited in person with our amazing colleagues in Lawyers Club. This was a lovely event supporting a great cause!" Attending her

first Red, White & Brew, Chandra Roam, another attorney at Buchalter, remarked "it is nice to see everybody and connect with old friends and new colleagues!"

The evening ended with a raffle of themed gift baskets including beer, wine, whisky, and various gift certificates generously donated by Bivouac Cider, Susanne de la Flor, Jackson Lewis PC, and Terri Marconi.

Noelle Dorman, assistant director of Projects and Employer Development at California Western School of Law, shared "CWSL is always proud to sponsor Lawyers Club's events. Red, White & Brew in particular is a very fun event, a great networking opportunity and we always have a good mix of staff, students, and alumni at the event."

The Red, White & Brew Committee thanks its sponsors, with whom this event would not have been possible: Vanst Law (Title); Considine & Considine (Red); CBIZ Forensic Consulting Group, LLC and JAMS (White); and Keeney Waite & Stevens and Martenson Hasbrouck & Simon LLP (Brew).

*Christine Fitzgerald is an assistant U.S. attorney at the U.S. Attorney's Office, member of Lawyers Club's Board of Directors, and co-chair of the 2022 Red, White & Brew Committee.*



*Laurel E. Garcia is a first-year student at California Western School of Law and a student member of Lawyers Club.*



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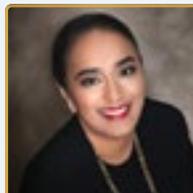


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# June Primary

## LAWYERS CLUB BACKS TWO JUDICIAL CANDIDATES

Lawyers Club of San Diego throws its support behind two judicial candidates in the June 7 primary election for the two contested San Diego County Superior Court seats. Lawyers Club endorses **Rebecca Kanter**, who is seeking Seat No. 35, and supports **Peter F. Murray**, who is seeking Seat No. 36.

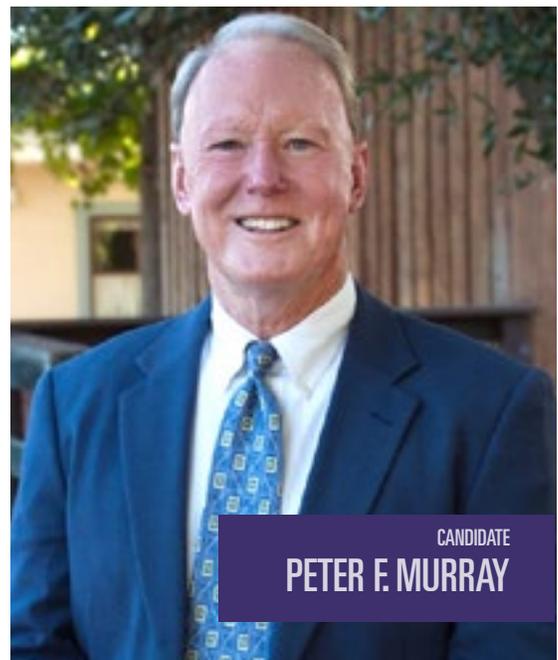
“Lawyers Club values the role that judges play in our legal system and is proud of its vetting process,” Lawyers Club president Maggie Schroedter said. “We seek to endorse candidates who exhibit qualities integral to the pursuit of justice: integrity, impartiality, and equity. We are confident that Kanter and Murray possess these qualities and also support the mission and values of Lawyers Club.”

Lawyers Club’s Judicial Elections Endorsement Committee conducts a confidential evaluation process of judicial candidates who seek Lawyers Club’s support, thoroughly evaluating the candidates and making recommendations to Lawyers Club’s Board of Directors, which votes whether to endorse or provide support to each candidate. Endorsements reflect Lawyers Club’s highest level of support.

Kanter, endorsed for Seat No. 35, is a veteran federal prosecutor with 15 years of experience handling complex trials, including prosecuting white collar crimes, corruption involving public officials, international bribery, internet crimes against children, identity theft, and charity fraud. She has experience as the civil rights coordinator and deputy chief in the Major Crimes Section of the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of California.

Kanter is an award-winning community volunteer who has served on Lawyers Club’s Board of Directors, was elected in 2021 to the Board of the San Diego County Bar Association, and is a founding board member of the San Diego Leadership Alliance. Information about her biography and campaign is available at her website, [kanter4judge.org/](http://kanter4judge.org/).

Murray, supported for Seat No. 36, is chief trial counsel for Cage & Miles, LLP, which he joined after having served more than 10 years as a deputy attorney general with the California Department of Justice’s Bureau of Medi-Cal Fraud and Elder Abuse, prosecuting crimes against seniors and healthcare fraud. He previously served as a deputy district attorney, prosecuting crimes including theft, drug trafficking, sexual assault, and murder. In addition to his more than 20 years as a criminal trial prosecutor, Murray has more than 10 years of experience in private practice, including running his own firm where he represented small businesses, families, and individuals. Information about his biography and campaign is available at his website, [peteforjudge.com](http://peteforjudge.com)



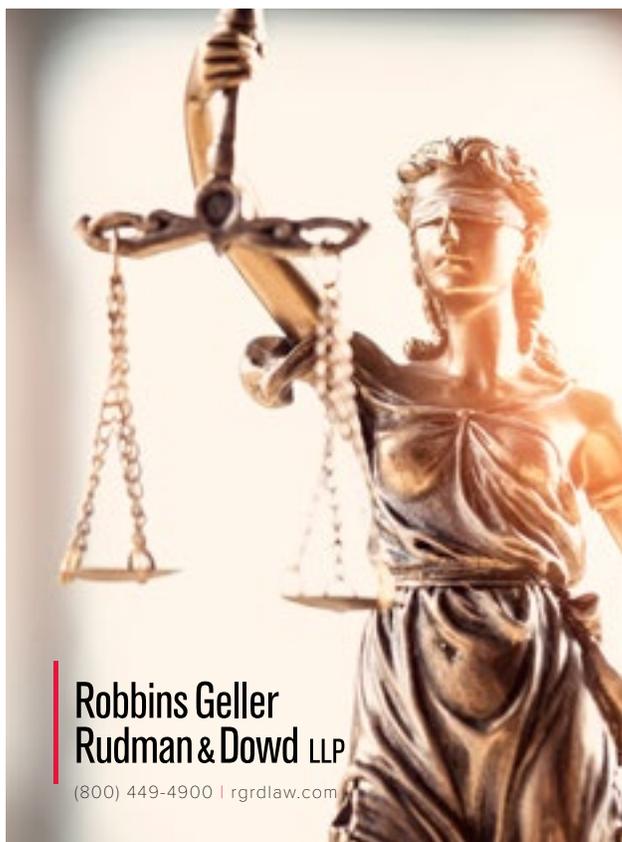
Jodi Cleesattle is a supervising deputy attorney general with the California Department of Justice and Lawyers Club’s press liaison.



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## RACHELLE GOLDEN



When Lawyers Club began to seek out legal consultation to ensure its website was compliant with the accessibility requirements of Americans with Disabilities Act (“ADA”), it looked no further than Rachelle Golden. Her pro bono legal work and skilled advice will guide Lawyers Club in its ongoing efforts to ensure the organization’s online presence is compliant with federal and state disability laws.

Golden dedicates her practice to defending California businesses against ADA accessibility lawsuits regarding construction-related and website-related access claims. Such lawsuits are often brought by high-frequency litigants, such that defense counsel commonly describes these actions as frivolous. Golden agrees with this view, noting that some of these lawsuits can be predatory in nature. However, what distinguishes Golden from her defense-side peers is that she has used a manual wheelchair since 1999. She sets forth a nuanced approach to accessibility compliance, which includes working collaboratively with businesses to develop proactive compliance strategies in an effort to effectively defend against lawsuits.

Golden has personally experienced the barriers that exist for individuals with disabilities. One of the most significant construction-related barriers Golden has faced occurred when she was an undergraduate student at San Diego State University (SDSU). During her freshman year, the university erected a temporary walking bridge connecting to Golden’s dormitory, with the plan that this bridge would remain in place for six years pending completion of a related campus construction project. The only problem? The incline of the bridge was too steep for an individual using a manual wheelchair. Golden raised this issue with SDSU, and it was clear SDSU wanted to do the right thing. Through proactive negotiation and collaboration with SDSU administration, and without litigation or entering into a settlement arrangement, Golden’s efforts resulted in a removal of the non-compliant walking bridge within two years.

Upon graduating from San Joaquin College of Law in 2013, Golden leveraged her personal experience into a practice dedicated to ADA defense and consulting, noting it was “divine intervention” that a frustrating undergraduate experience resulted in her finding her niche in the California legal landscape. While Golden remains passionate about ADA compliance and the undeniable value of the ADA when appropriately utilized, she finds her impact is greatest on the defense side. In her practice, Golden frequently defends small business owners, the majority of whom are from Mexico

and India, and there are often language barriers that arise. Many of these minority business owners are not aware of the state and federal disability laws they must abide by, and upon being sued, sadly their first instinct is to ask Golden if they can simply refuse to serve people



with disabilities. Through her defense work, Golden educates clients and helps them think creatively to develop practical compliance solutions that benefit both business owners and individuals with disabilities in the long run. With the rise of high-frequency litigants and frivolous lawsuits in the ADA compliance arena, Golden works to change how business owners view disabled individuals. By defending against frivolous lawsuits, Golden aims to combat the suspicious attitude business owners can often harbor toward disabled individuals, and in doing so, advocate against the truly egregious cases of disability discrimination.

In 2021, Golden opened her own practice, Golden Law A.P.C., focusing on all aspects of ADA defense and consulting, including, but not limited to, construction-related access claims, landlord-tenant lease agreements, website-related access claims, employment and public entity work (i.e. transition plan consulting). As the daughter of business owner parents, Golden is familiar with what is needed to run a successful business. Although she has since learned the ins and outs of the administrative side of solo practice, Golden still welcomes business advice from her mother, who she lovingly calls her “Admin-ninja.” In taking the leap to solo practice, Golden recalls her appreciation for the female attorneys who mentored her and helped her cultivate a growth mindset as a young attorney.

Golden currently serves on the 2022 Fresno County Women’s Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and is the Secretary of the Fresno County Bar Association.

*Julia Sherwood is an attorney at Fisher Phillips, LLP*





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## Protecting Reproductive Freedom — Provisions Proposed in California

Last November, Dr. Janet Jacobsen, the medical director of Planned Parenthood of Orange and San Bernardino counties, advised that clinics in California were anticipating seeing up to 50 out-of-state patients a week if the United States Supreme Court overrules the protections of *Roe v. Wade* when it decides *Jackson Women's Health Org. v. Dobbs* this term.<sup>1</sup> As the California State Legislature starts its new session, which reconvened in January, Governor Gavin Newsom and legislative leaders are set to consider a number of measures this session to bolster California's abortion infrastructure.

Among the new laws being considered is SB 245, also called the "Abortion Accessibility Act," which would prohibit health plans from imposing copays and other cost-sharing requirements on coverage for abortions and abortion-related services. California is already one of six states, along with Illinois, Maine, New York, Oklahoma, and Washington, that require health insurance plans to cover the cost of abortion. However, deductibles and copays can range from \$40 to thousands of dollars, which can be cost-prohibitive for low and middle-income families. The Abortion Accessibility Act is designed to ensure Californians will not be denied abortion services due to cost.

SB 245 was introduced by Assemblymember Lena A. Gonzalez (D-Long Beach) on January 21, 2021. The bill has been passed by the Senate Health, Appropriations, and Form Committees and was ordered to a third reading on the Senate Floor on January 24. After this reading, the bill still needs to be passed by both the full Senate and the full Assembly before being sent to the Governor. SB 245 is supported by the California Women's Legislative Caucus, the Black Women for Wellness Action Project, NARAL Pro-Choice California, National Health Law Program, and Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California.

The California Legislature's consideration of SB 245 aligns with the recommendations of the California Future of Abortion Council (the "CA FAB"). Along with SB 245, CA FAB has recommended a long list of what have been characterized as reproductive freedom proposals. This includes AB 1666, which is a direct response to Texas's Senate Bill No. 8 which allows private citizens to sue abortion providers and anyone else who helps a woman obtain an abortion, including those who give women rides to access services and those who provide financial assistance. However, California's AB 1666 declares any action brought against reproductive choice to be against the public policy of California, making Texas's Senate Bill 8, and similar laws, unenforceable in California courts.

AB 1666 was introduced by Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan (D-Orinda) on January 19 with the support of the California Legislative Women's Caucus. It was referred to the Assembly Judiciary and Health Committees on January 27. If the bill passes these committees, it will still need to be considered and passed by both the Assembly and Senate before being forwarded to the Governor for signature.

At a press conference held January 21 to mark the 49th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*, the California Legislative Women's Caucus announced plans to attempt to push through both SB 245 and AB 1666 this legislative session.<sup>2</sup> The California Legislative Women's Caucus also announced plans to establish a web page for centralized information on services and support for those seeking abortion care; to create a pilot program for counties to direct funds to community health clinics providing reproductive healthcare; to establish a gap coverage and uncompensated care program to provide uninsured Californians access to abortion and abortion-related care; to stabilize and expand the reproductive health and abortion care workforce; to protect people from the criminalization of abortion or pregnancy loss; and to ensure patients privacy and shielding for medical records of abortion patients. These measures, however, have yet to be introduced to the California Legislature.

### SOURCES:

1. Bluth, Rachel. "California makes plans to be the nation's abortion provider in a post-Roe world." The Los Angeles Times, 15 Nov. 2021, <https://www.plannedparenthood.org/planned-parenthood-orange-san-bernardino/about-us/news/california-makes-plans-to-be-the-nations-abortion-provider-in-a-post-roeworld>
2. Landa, Sulema. "Legislative Women's Caucus Leaders Announce United Plan on Reproductive Freedom in Honor of 'Roe v. Wade' 49th Anniversary." The California Legislative Women's Caucus, 20 Jan. 2022, <https://womenscaucus.legislature.ca.gov/news/2022-01-20-legislative-women%E2%80%99s-caucus-leaders-announce-united-plan-reproductive-freedom-honor>.

Meredith King is an associate at Higgs Fletcher & Mack and co-chair of the Advocacy and Reproductive Justice Committee.





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# MEMBERS MAKING NEWS



Kristin Rizzo



Tarina Mand

**ELECTED** – **Kristin Rizzo** was elected to serve as chair of the San Diego City’s Human Relations Commission (HRC). Rizzo was appointed to the HRC two years ago by the Mayor and City Council. The HRC is empowered to collaborate with civic institutions, educate the public, investigate policy to make San Diego better, advocate on issues to the Mayor and City Council, and mediate disputes concerning discrimination, exclusion, and bias in the City of San Diego.

**ON THE MOVE** – **Tarina Mand** joined Dixon Diab & Chambers. Mand represents plaintiffs in complex litigation matters, including class action and mass tort cases, as well as employment matters including discrimination, harassment, and assault.



Susan Swan

**FEATURED** – **Susan Swan** competed on Jeopardy! after completing a multi-part testing and audition process. Her episode aired on March 14. Swan owns Swan Employment Law, and represents employees in discrimination, harassment, and retaliation cases. She is a former Lawyers Club Board of Directors member, and co-chaired Networking Events and Annual Dinner Committees, including the 2016 Annual Dinner, featuring documentary filmmaker and now First Partner of California, Jennifer Siebel Newsom.



Hon. Tamila E. Ipema



Jamie Beck

**HONORED** – **Hon. Tamila E. Ipema**, San Diego Superior Court, and **Jamie Beck**, president of Free to Thrive and past president of Lawyers Club, were two of ten women selected by the public for the 2022 MOXIE Award. The MOXIE Award is given to those transforming our San Diego community and inspiring future generations through their accomplishments and leadership. To have “moxie” means to possess force of character and to have courage, grit and determination in the face of adversity.

**RETIRED** – **Dean Molly Wescott** recently retired. She served as assistant dean at USD School of Law for the past seven years. Wescott reflected that she is proud of the Office of Career and Professional Development teams she built and how team members support one another.



Dean Molly Wescott

*Lauren Bushman is an attorney at Fisher Phillips, a member of Lawyers Club’s Board of Directors, and co-chair of the Annual Dinner Committee.*



**Have you spoken at a professional conference?  
Have you changed jobs? Have you won any recent awards?**

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# 2022 SUPER LAWYERS



Gayle Blatt



Juanita Brooks



David S. Casey, Jr.



John Gomez



David Noonan



Heather Rosing

## LAWYERS CLUB MEMBERS TOP THE LIST

Six Lawyers Club members were named to the Top 10 “Super Lawyers” list in San Diego for 2022 by Super Lawyers magazine; 19 members were named to the Top 50 list; and 17 members were named to the Top 25 Women list.

The magazine compiles the annual list of top attorneys in private practice based on a process involving peer nomination, independent research, and peer evaluation.

## TOP 10 SAN DIEGO SUPER LAWYERS

The Top 10 list includes: **Gayle Blatt**, Casey Gerry Schenk Francavilla Blatt & Penfield LLP; **Juanita Brooks**, Fish & Richardson PC; **David S. Casey, Jr.**, Casey Gerry Schenk Francavilla Blatt & Penfield LLP; **John Gomez**, Gomez Trial Attorneys; **David Noonan**, Noonan Lance Boyer & Banach LLP; and **Heather Rosing**, Klinedinst PC.

## TOP 50 SAN DIEGO SUPER LAWYERS

The Top 50 list includes: **Harvey Berger**, Pope Berger Williams & Reynolds LLP; **Nadia Bermudez**, Klinedinst PC; **Gayle Blatt**, Casey Gerry Schenk Francavilla Blatt & Penfield LLP; **Juanita Brooks**, Fish & Richardson PC; **David S. Casey, Jr.**, Casey Gerry Schenk Francavilla Blatt & Penfield LLP; **James Crosby**, James D. Crosby, Attorney at Law; **Deborah Dixon**, Dixon Diab & Chambers LLP; **Amber Eck**, Haeggquist & Eck; **John Gomez**, Gomez Trial Attorneys; **Alreen Haeggquist**, Haeggquist & Eck; **Valerie Garcia Hong**, Garcia Hong Law; **David Noonan**, Noonan Lance Boyer & Banach LLP; **Michael O’Halloran**, Law Office of Michael T. O’Halloran; Heather Rosing, Klinedinst PC; **Johanna Schiavoni**, California Appellate Law Group LLP; **Renee Stackhouse**, Stackhouse APC; **Rupa Singh**, Niddrie Addams Fuller Singh LLP; **Susan Swan**, Swan Employment Law; and **Jonah Toleno**, Shustak Reynolds & Partners PC.

## TOP 25 WOMEN SAN DIEGO SUPER LAWYERS

The Top 25 Women list includes: **Nadia Bermudez**, Klinedinst PC; **Gayle Blatt**, Casey Gerry Schenk Francavilla Blatt & Penfield LLP; **Juanita Brooks**, Fish & Richardson PC; **Janice Brown**, Meyers Nave; **Deborah Dixon**, Dixon Diab & Chambers LLP; **Amber Eck**, Haeggquist & Eck; **Alreen Haeggquist**, Haeggquist & Eck; **Patricia Hollenbeck**, Duane Morris LLP; **Valerie Garcia Hong**, Garcia Hong Law; **Janice Mulligan**, Mulligan Law; **Heather Rosing**, Klinedinst PC; **Johanna Schiavoni**, California Appellate Law Group LLP; **Rupa Singh**, Niddrie Addams Fuller Singh LLP; **Renee Stackhouse**, Stackhouse APC; **Susan Swan**, Swan Employment Law; **Jonah Toleno**, Shustak Reynolds & Partners PC; and **Claudette Wilson**, Wilson Turner Kosmo LLP.

Numerous Lawyers Club members also were named San Diego Super Lawyers in individual practice areas and San Diego Rising Stars – attorneys 40 years old or younger or in practice 10 years or less – in individual practice areas. They are listed online at [attorneys.superlawyers.com/california/san-diego/](https://attorneys.superlawyers.com/california/san-diego/).

*Jodi Cleesattle is a supervising deputy attorney general with the California Department of Justice and Lawyers Club’s Press Liaison.*





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# THE IMPORTANCE OF REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS



Thirty years ago today, Lawyers Club hosted the former president of Planned Parenthood Federation of America: Faye Wattleton. Lawyers Club has come full circle in welcoming Cecile Richards, former president of Planned Parenthood Federation of America, 30 years later as the keynote speaker at the 2022 Annual Dinner. Much like Richards, Wattleton played a significant role in defining the debate over reproductive rights and justice in the United States. Then, as today, Planned Parenthood was at “the forefront of the battle to preserve women’s fundamental right to equality and self-determination.” Wattleton received a bachelor’s degree in nursing from Ohio State University and was also certified as a nurse-midwife. She stated she became an advocate for women’s reproductive rights was after seeing the “desperation and suffering that resulted from unintended pregnancy and illegal, unsafe abortions.”

In her president’s column, Lawyers Club president Rebecca Prater discussed the importance of reproductive rights in the United States. She recounted her experience going to the March for Women’s Lives in Washington, D.C. and seeing

young women fight to preserve reproductive rights. She stated that half of the marchers were under 30 years old, and a quarter of the participants were male. Prater commented, “We are not free unless we have control over our own bodies.”

Lawyers Club also promoted a women’s symposium co-hosted by USD School of Law and the UCSD Women’s Center. The title of the symposium was “Feminism and the Law.” One of the speakers was Christine Littleton, a law professor at UCLA School of Law since 1983. Her primary scholastic focus has been feminist legal theory, and she has taught classes on critical race theory, disability rights, and sexual orientation.

Looking back, Lawyers Club’s members were equally as fervent about moving the organization’s mission forward as its members are today.

*Frantz Farreau is a broker associate at HomeSmart Realty West, an attorney licensed in California, a Lawyers Club board member, and chair of the History, Bylaws & Policy Committee.*



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# Spring Read-In

**ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL CHAPTER IS IN THE BOOKS!**



Lawyers Club's Community Services Committee (CSC) co-sponsored the 26th annual Spring Read-In with San Diego La Raza Lawyers Association (La Raza) on Friday, March 18. "The San Diego La Raza Lawyers Association is incredibly proud to continue coordinating the bilingual readers for the Central Elementary School Read-Ins. We are incredibly grateful that volunteers continue to support the students and advocate for inclusivity and pride in the form of language, reading, and professionalism," shared Rafael Hurtado, the chair of the Community Outreach Service Committee for La Raza.

Lawyers Club has partnered with Central Elementary School for both the Fall and Spring Read-Ins every year for the past 25 years. Volunteers read to students ranging in age from pre-K to fifth grade.

Volunteers were assigned to teams of two or three people and either interacted live with a class on Zoom or prepared a pre-recorded reading for the class. Some volunteers even dressed in green and changed their Zoom backgrounds in honor of St. Patrick's Day. This year, 26 different classes at Central Elementary participated in the Read-In along with 48 volunteer readers. Special guest readers included: Hon.

Marissa Bejarano, Hon. Matthew Braner, Hon. Margaret Mann, Hon. Marcella McLaughlin, and San Diego City Attorney Mara Elliott.

Central Elementary School serves some of the most underprivileged children in San Diego, and the Read-In is an opportunity for students to interact with professionals from varying backgrounds, races, and ethnicities.

Nicole Heeder, a Lawyers Club member, partner at Johnson Heeder LLP, and repeat Read-In volunteer, remarked, "although we miss our classroom time, we are fortunate to be able to deliver our time to the students at Central via Zoom. In my 13th year of Read-Ins, I am still meeting new Lawyers Club members. My reading partner and I took turns reading chapters of a mystery novel for our 3rd grade class. We also shared our profession with the students, encouraging them to dream big as they go through school and learn who they want to become."

Many volunteers like to read over Zoom, because it still gives students an opportunity to interact with the readers. "Over the decades, I have been reading to the kids. I always am

thrilled to hear their views about the books. Their intelligence and joy in realizing their voice matters gives me comfort for the future," shared Judge Mann.

Some readers pre-recorded themselves reading and the teachers played it for their classrooms at an appropriate time. Readers found fun ways to keep the listeners engaged and didn't let the virtual nature of the program stifle their creativity.

Mikhak Ghorban, principal at Ghorban Law and member of Lawyers Club's Board of Directors, was one volunteer that did a pre-recorded reading for the four and five-year-old preschool students. Ghorban commented, "My reading partner, Kate Langmore, and I appreciate having the opportunity to pre-record a video since we're not always able to take time off from work to read with the class. The recording provides Ms.

Penny some flexibility to show the video when her young students have settled down and are open to listening. We look forward to being back in Ms. Penny's class in October so we can read, as well play and color with our little friends."

Donations to the Central Elementary classrooms were made for needed items such as books, art supplies, and disinfectant wipes. Donating items to the school has become an important part of the Read-In tradition.

The Community Services Committee will host the Halloween Read-In this coming October.

*Laurel E. Garcia is a first-year student at California Western School of Law and a student member of Lawyers Club.*





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| Linda Cianciolo            | Comm. Pennie McLaughlin    | Vickie Turner                |
| Jodi Cleesattle            | Julie Mebane               | Megan Walker                 |
| Diana Coker                | Danielle Moore             | Hon. Theodore Weathers       |
| Hon. Karen Crawford        | Amberly Morgan             | Allyson Werner               |
| Hon. Robert Dahlquist      | Hon. Dwayne Moring         | Claudette Wilson             |
| Hon. Cindy Davis           | Ron Oberdorfer             | Sheila Wise                  |
| Christina Dyer             | Hon. Jinsook Ohta          | Hon. Joel Wohlfeil           |
| Amber Eck                  | Dawn Ovrom                 | Julie O. Wolff               |
| Shannon Finley             | Aimee Parker               | Hon. Margie Woods (Ret.)     |
| Hon. Patricia Garcia       | Katie Parker               | Arlene Yang                  |
| Mikhak Ghorban             | Hon. Pamela Parker         |                              |
| Hon. Irma Gonzalez (Ret.)  | Hon. Christine Pate (Ret.) |                              |
| Roxanne Govari             | Hon. Anne Perry            |                              |
| P. Camille Guerra          | Regina Petty               |                              |
| Hon. Maureen Hallahan      | Suzanne Pollack            |                              |
| Hon. Judith Haller         | Rebecca Prater             |                              |
| Elaine Harwell             | Blanca Quintero            |                              |
| Erika Hiramatsu            | Jenna Rangel               |                              |
| Richard Huver              | Stephanie Reynolds         |                              |
| Hon. Joan Irion            |                            |                              |

# Event Calendar



## WHAT'S GOING ON

### MAY

#### Annual Dinner: Our Future, Our Choice, Our Rights! Wednesday, May 4, 2022

The 2022 Annual Dinner honors Lawyers Club awardees, celebrates 50 years of progress, inducts the 2022-2023 Board of Directors, and features a keynote address from Cecile Richards, co-founder of Supermajority, bestselling author, and former president of Planned Parenthood. This in-person event will be held at the Marriott Marquis. The evening will begin with a welcome reception followed by the program and dinner.

Registration: [CLICK HERE!](#)

#### Bench Bar Luncheon Tuesday, May 24, 2022

Join Lawyers Club for a luncheon featuring retired Santa Clara County Superior Court Judge LaDoris Cordell, author of *Her Honor*, and moderated by Commissioner Pennie McLaughlin. Cordell will share her views about her life on the bench – what works, what's broken, and how to change it.

Registration: [CLICK HERE!](#)

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

#### JUNE

THURSDAY, JUNE 2, 2022  
WOMEN OF COLOR RECEPTION

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15, 2022  
TESTING THEIR RESOLVE: THE 1971  
INVASION OF THE GRANT GRILL

#### AUGUST

MONDAY, AUGUST 15, 2022  
GOLF TOURNAMENT & MIXER

Lawyers Club continues to follow the recommendations and regulations made by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), and San Diego County and city officials, and encourages its members to do the same. Please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns – staff can be reached via email or phone. Lawyers Club will continue to adapt as the situation demands and give as much advance notice as possible



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