On Dec. 16, Lawyers Club will close out 2010 with our annual holiday luncheon at the Westin San Diego downtown. The holiday luncheon always proves to be a wonderful event where members and non-members alike can put aside the stresses of their hectic professional lives to spend time with friends reflecting upon the past, marveling upon today, and looking hopefully toward the future.

In reflecting upon the past, members of the organization can take pride in the strides that have been made to further the mission of Lawyers Club. While there remains much work to be done to advance the interests of women in law and society, the San Diego legal community should be grateful for the hard work done by its predecessors to break down barriers and open doors previously closed to women.

In marveling upon today, Lawyers Club recognizes that in these economic times, the importance of laughter should not be underestimated. On that note, the Lawyers Club is pleased to host the comedic stylings of Lawyers Club member Patricia (“Patti”) Zlaket. Zlaket is a contract attorney with the law firm of Casey Gerry Schenk Francavilla Blatt & Penfield, LLP, where she practices in the areas of personal injury and pharmaceutical products liability. Prior to joining the firm in 2009, Zlaket had a successful career in music production and performance. She is a singer/songwriter and still performs regularly around San Diego. She is also an awarded-winning stand-up comic. This past spring Zlaket won the LAF-Off (Lawyers are Funny) at The House of Blues, a benefit raising money for the San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program.

In addition to humor, Lawyers Club also recognizes and appreciates the need for charitable community services that bring hope to those in difficult situations. Toward that end, the Fund for Justice will award grants at the holiday luncheon to deserving organizations so that they can continue their dedication to community service for years to come. Moreover, scholarships will be presented to deserving students receiving Lawyers Club scholarships at the three local law schools.

As we look with hope toward tomorrow, luncheon attendees, once again, will be graced with the presence of members of the Tomorrow Project, a work-readiness training program that specifically targets the unique issues of homeless women. The Tomorrow Project was developed to give homeless women worthwhile work that offered opportunity for the women to change their circumstances. The women assemble delicious food products and attendees will have the opportunity to purchase these products. You will not want to miss this wonderful opportunity to contribute to a worthwhile cause and walk away with terrific holiday gifts and stocking stuffers.

Members should register early for the holiday luncheon to ensure that they do not miss out on the holiday festivities.

Cindy Freeland is a partner with the law office of Schor & Freeland, LLP and serves as the Co-Chair for the Lawyers Club Programs Committee.
President’s Message

Lawyers Club celebrates season of giving throughout year

By Wendy Behan

The end of the year is upon us and with it the holiday season. I try to teach my children that the season is not about presents; rather it is about the spirit of giving. Lawyers Club works year round toward this mission.

The Community Outreach Committee is one of the most active committees in Lawyers Club, with the leadership of co-chairs Michele Macosky and Jennifer Hansen. Michelle has been the co-chair of this committee for over a decade! She recently attended the 14th annual Halloween Read-In at Central Elementary. Many volunteers come year after year to read to the students of Central Elementary in their costumes at Halloween and again in the Spring. It means a lot to the children to have positive role models in their classrooms. Ten years ago Lawyers Club volunteers painted a mural in the Literacy Garden and they are freshening up the mural this year.

The Community Outreach Committee’s current project is the Shakti Rising Garden Project. Lawyers Club volunteers are transforming the outdoor space into an outdoor, edible garden and meeting space. Shakti Rising, a former Fund for Justice grant recipient, is a social change organization that empowers women in recovery for addiction or trauma in their lives. The committee chooses different projects each year to support charitable causes that fit within the Lawyers Club mission. Volunteers are always welcome and some projects allow for children to help too.

Lawyers Club’s Fund for Justice is our charitable foundation arm that serves to reach out to the San Diego community, in particular to serve “at-risk” women and children. The Fund for Justice is led by Karen Crawford and Andi Catalano Redcrow. Twice a year, the Fund for Justice Committee reviews grant applications from local organizations in need of funds for their community programs, which support Lawyers Club’s mission. In the recent years, the Fund has awarded grants to San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program, Casa Cornelia Law Center, the Women’s Resource Fair, Juvenile Court Book Club, United Through Reading, La Cuna, Girls Inc., and Girl Scouts, San Diego-Imperial Council, among others. The Fund for Justice depends on the generosity of our members to continue to award grants each year. You can donate to the Fund for Justice directly or when you renew your membership including the optional $25 donation to the Fund.

This year for the first time ever we now have scholarships at each of the three local law schools bearing the Lawyers Club name. All three scholarships will be awarded at the Holiday Luncheon. The Fund for Justice formed a subcommittee, led by Betty Boone, to make the difficult decision of choosing the scholarship winners, which were wholeheartedly approved by our Board of Directors. Congratulations to these three well-deserving scholarship recipients. Their applications were truly motivational and the students were most deserving of the scholarships. All three recipients will be introduced at our Holiday Luncheon.

An annual Lawyers Club tradition of giving back to the community is the Women’s Resource Fair, which is scheduled for Saturday, March 5, 2011. The committee is led by Cynthia Morgan, who has led for several years, with new co-chair, Anna Carpenter. Lawyers Club is one of the major sponsors of the Women’s Resource Fair which organizes lawyers, doctors, social service workers, shelter and housing consultants, battered women’s agencies and other services and professionals at a one day event. The event provides assistance to over 700 women and 200 children. One of the highlights for the attendees is their gift bag filled with donated toiletries. At the Holiday Luncheon, we will again be collecting toiletries or small cash donations for them for the gift bags. And you can also help out homeless women and men by bringing gently used clothing, etc. to fill backpacks sponsored by the Girls Think Tank.

At this time of the year, I am reminded and touched by the incredible generosity and good will that Lawyers Club members continually demonstrate. This is not just through monetary donations, but also the hours donated on these projects. And I know there is so much more that all our members do that isn’t mentioned. It is, indeed, an honor to be your colleague. Thank you all for what you do for those who are much less fortunate than we.

Lawyers Club’s MCLE Provider Status Renewed

The State Bar of California recently approved Lawyers Club of San Diego’s Multiple Activity Provider renewal request. What this means for you is that you will be able to earn MCLE credits for qualified programs and events through December 31, 2013. Qualifying events will be noticed in Lawyers Club News and email blasts. Be sure to sign up for the credit!
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Lawyers Club News is published monthly 11 times a year, with a combined July/August issue.

Lawyers Club welcomes contributions to the newsletter, as well as your comments and suggestions regarding Lawyers Club News. Contact Michelle Ialeggio at michelle.ialeggio@sdcda.org with your ideas for articles.

The deadline for articles is the first day of the month prior to the month of publication. The advertising deadline is the eighth day of the month prior to the month of publication. Articles should be submitted in Microsoft Word. For advertising information, contact Joan Friedenberg at (619) 595-0650.

About Us
Lawyers Club members making news

Elected
Lawyers Club members Oleg Cross, Marissa Dragoo, Angela Dominguez Gonzales, Eric Ganci and Negeen Mirreghabie were elected to serve on the board of the San Diego County Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division in October. Cross practices business and personal injury litigation at Cross Law Group. Dragoo is an employment and civil litigation attorney with GCR, LLP. Dominguez Gonzales is an attorney with Cross Border Legal Group, where she practices international and transactional law. Ganci is principal of Law Office of Eric P. Ganci, handling DUI defense cases. Mirreghabie is a sole practitioner who has volunteered for the San Diego City Attorney's Office, Orange County District Attorney's Office, and North County Family Facilitator's Office.

Appointed
Lawyers Club vice president Meryl Maneker and member Nancy Stagg will co-chair the Lawyer Representative Committee for the Southern District of California for 2010-2011. Maneker, a partner with Wilson Turner Kosmo LLP, co-chaired the committee for 2009-10. Stagg, a partner with Fish & Richardson PC, just completed her first year on the committee.

Lawyers Club member Jerrilyn Malana, a shareholder with Littler Mendelson, has been appointed to the State Bar of California’s Council on Access and Fairness, which advises the State Bar’s Board of Governors on diversity strategies and goals.

Lawyers Club member Lisa Mersereau has been appointed to the San Diego County Committee for Persons with Disabilities. Mersereau is an associate with Lincoln, Gustafson & Cercos LLP. She also is co-founder and a board member of DS Action, a non-profit that partnered with Rady Children’s Hospital-San Diego to establish the first pediatric Down Syndrome Center in Southern California.

On the Move
Lawyers Club past president Kitty Juniper & Bookman PC as a partner in the firm’s San Diego office. Juniper, who most recently was a partner with Juniper Sanderson Wiggins LLP, joins the firm’s health law business team. Juniper specializes in issues related to managed care, retail health, licensing, advertising, privacy, contracts, compliance, and business structures.

Lawyers Club member Sandra Brower has joined Sullivan Hill Lewin Rez & Engel APLC as Of Counsel. Brower, who previously was a shareholder with Wertz McDade Wallace Moot & Brower PC, specializes in eminent domain litigation for public entities and private owners and handles all aspects of real estate litigation. Brower, who previously was a shareholder with Wertz McDade Wallace Moot & Brower PC, specializes in eminent domain litigation for public entities and private owners and handles all aspects of real estate litigation.

Lawyers Club member Katie Pothier has joined Wilson Turner Kosmo LLP as a partner. Pothier was executive vice president and general counsel for the San Diego Padres and spent eight seasons with the Padres.

Submit news of your or your colleagues’ career accomplishments — awards, promotions, job changes, board appointments, published articles, presentations, etc. — to Jodi Cleesattle at jodi.cleesattle@doj.ca.gov. The deadline for each issue of Lawyers Club News is the first of the month prior to that issue.

CORRECTION
The November 2010 issue of Lawyers Club News incorrectly identified Lawyers Club member Lizzette Herrera, the Assistant Director of Public Service and Diversity, Career Services, at University of San Diego School of Law, as having been appointed to the Sargent Shriver Civil Counsel Act Implementation Committee. Luz Herrera, an assistant professor at Thomas Jefferson School of Law, is the individual who was appointed to the committee. Lawyers Club News regrets the error.
Champagne, Chocolate and Charity on March 10th

Plans for the 2011 Champagne and Chocolate Affair are well under way. The committee is currently welcoming volunteers for the committee to assist with securing sponsors, in-kind donors of auction items, champagne, wine and chocolate. Sponsors and in-kind donors will be recognized in all Champagne & Chocolate Affair promotional materials, at the event, and in Lawyers Club News.

We will again run the “Championship for Charity” competition which has successfully raised funds for Lawyers Club causes. We will recognize the law firm that donates the auction item that nets the highest bid as the “Champion for Charity”.

Tickets are now available for purchase online or through the Lawyers Club office. Advance tickets are $50 per person. The first 10 people to purchase their tickets online will be entered in a drawing for a $50 gift certificate from Nordstrom, with the winner being announced at the Lawyers Club’s January 20th luncheon.

Purchase your ticket now so you don’t miss this spectacular event of bubbles, wine, chocolate, other delectable goodies and Lawyers Club’s silent auction. This year’s event will again take place at the US Grant Hotel’s Celestial Ballroom on March 10 from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. The US Grant has been a San Diego iconic hotel since 1910 and hosted over 14 U.S. presidents from John F. Kennedy to George W. Bush as guests. The hotel’s rich history is a great compliment to one of Lawyers Club most special events.

For more information, or to join the Champagne & Chocolate Affair Committee, please contact co-chairs Lana Sheshina at (619) 236-8821 or Danna J. Cotman at (619) 980-8911.

A little pampering for Lawyers Club members during the holiday season

By Andrea M. Gherini

It’s finally all about you, at least for one afternoon! Schedule some time just for you – no demands, no expectations – just fun and relaxation during the busy holiday season.

Lawyers Club is partnering with the office of Dr. Fallah for a spectacular day of pampering. Join other Lawyers Club members delighting in a day of beauty at Dr. Fallah’s annual Spa, Beauty and Wellness Day on Dec. 10. The event will be held from noon until 5 p.m. at Dr. Fallah’s office at 1293 Carlsbad Village Dr. in Carlsbad. No appointment necessary for the services, and complimentary food, wine and champagne will be served.

Some highlights of the event include: botox and fillers at a substantial discount, complimentary consultations with a naturopathic physician, board certified plastic surgeon and/or a dental consultation, B-12 shots, Microdermabrasion, brow bar and chair massages.

Lawyers Club will continue the celebration with their own tent at the event. There is no charge to attend; members only pay for services they select.

Andrea M. Gherini is a sole practitioner in Oceanside specializing in Estate and Elder Law and is secretary of the North County Chapter of Lawyers Club.
Balance Committee starts “First Tuesday” series of panel discussions in February

By Teresa Beck

Following up the popular “Should I Stay or Should I Go” luncheon, the Lawyers Club Balance Committee has announced a series of First Tuesday meetings starting in February 2011. The First Tuesday meetings will feature panel discussions similar in format to the break out panels which followed the featured speakers at the recent luncheon event (former State Bar President Holly Fujie and career consultant Amy Mallow) including a panel of women who have stayed in the practice and balanced families (February 1), women interested in leaving the practice and returning (March 1), and a panel of retired women lawyers who balanced career and family (April 5).

Kramm Court Reporting will host these brown bag lunch events at Kramm’s new state-of-the-art conference facilities in downtown San Diego. MCLE credit will be provided. Watch the newsletter for more details in the coming months!

Teresa Beck is a partner at Lincoln, Gustafson & Cercos. She is a Lawyers Club board member and co-chair of the Balance Committee, as well as chair of the new Rainmaking Initiative.

Be a Part of Something Wonderful

By Cynthia Morgan

Love the holidays but want to keep that spirit of giving alive after they are gone? Then sign up to help with the 22nd annual Women’s Resource Fair being held Saturday, March 5th at Golden Hall.

Volunteering at the Fair is a rewarding and enriching experience. The Fair provides essential legal, medical and social services to homeless, battered, recovering and indigent women and their children. The Fair provides a one-stop-shop, where women and children in need receive assistance and empowerment.

In the current troubled economic climate, the task force expects the Fair to be bigger than ever. Volunteers are needed for the day of the fair to help with guest registration, organizing transportation, and assisting with childcare, breakfast, seminars, and medical services. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact volunteer committee co-chairs Rachel Scatizzi at scatizzi@scmv.com or Marissa McArthur at mcarthur@scmv.com

You can also contribute by bringing unused make-up, toiletries or other personal items to Lawyers Club luncheons. These items are added to gift bags given to the women who attend the Fair.

Cynthia Morgan is a partner at Higgs Fletcher & Mack and co-chair of the Women’s Resource Fair Task Force.

Holiday Luncheon Collections

Girls Think Tank will be collecting items for their winter survival backpack project. Please bring gently used men and women’s items to the Lawyers Club holiday luncheon. Hot items for collection include sleeping bags, blankets, space blankets, ponchos, tents, tarps, bamboo mats, tote bags, warm clothing, shoes, new socks or underwear, long johns, hats or beanies, gloves, flashlights, pen, pencils, paper, stamped envelopes, flashlights and $1 radios.

Following up the popular “Holiday Luncheon Collections” event, the Lawyers Club will host a panel discussion focused on the importance of giving back to the community. The panelists will include women who have successfully balanced their careers and personal lives, along with representatives from local non-profit organizations.

Help students get jobs by honing their interview skills

By Jessica Jagir

Are you interested in helping local law students improve their interviewing skills? The Lawyers Club Student Committee is seeking volunteers to give their candid opinion and advice to a panel of law students. The Student Committee encourages judges and lawyers from a variety of practice groups to sign up. Several panels are scheduled to take place on Thursday, February 10th in downtown San Diego. To sign-up, please contact Natalie Prescott via e-mail at natalie.prescott@lw.com or by phone at 619-237-8958. Please be sure to indicate whether you are interested in the 4:00-5:30 p.m. panel or the 5:30-7:00 p.m. panel.

Jessica Jagir is a member of Lawyers Club and Lawyers Club Student Committee.
Lawyers Club members get into costume for 14th annual Halloween Read-In

By Alexandra C. O’Neill

On October 29, 2010, the Community Outreach Committee of the Lawyers Club sponsored the Halloween Read-In at Central Elementary School in the City Heights community of San Diego. Central Elementary School is a pre-kindergarten through fifth grade school. The 14th consecutive read-in was organized by Community Outreach Committee co-chair Michele Macosky.

The turnout was fantastic: 65 volunteers in 36 classrooms. Costumed volunteers from all over the county, including Lawyers Club members, La Raza members, attorneys, members of the bench, and law students volunteered their time during a long lunch to read to children and discuss things like staying in school, college, professions and the love of reading. The event was an excellent opportunity for young students to see professional women and successful role models of varying races and ethnic backgrounds. Readers shared personal stories with the children, answered questions, and encouraged the children to explore the many opportunities for careers and pursuing their dreams.

The children of Central Elementary School are among the most economically disadvantaged in the district.

The elementary school library was replete with creative costumes including Frieda Kahlo, the Oscar Meyer Weiner, a British judge, Thomas the Tank Engine, a bouquet of flowers and some scary vampires, witches and wizards. In cooperation with the school’s efforts at promoting healthy choices, most of the volunteers brought non-food item treats like stuffed toys, stickers, flowers, pencils and desk toys. Readers brought books to donate to individuals. Given the budget constraints with which many of San Diego’s schools are faced, books that are donated to the classrooms are particularly appreciated by the young students and their teachers.

Many readers expressed the fun they had and more than 50 percent of the volunteers have already signed up to read again for the next read-in in the Spring 2011.

A special thank you goes to Rachel Cano, who was instrumental in recruiting bilingual La Raza members to read to the Spanish/English bilingual designated classrooms.

The Community Outreach Committee will host another read-in on March 18, 2011. Those interested in volunteering are encouraged to contact Michele Macosky at macosky@san.rr.com.

Alexandra C. O’Neill is an associate at the Law Offices of Beatrice Snider and a member of the Lawyers Club Community Outreach Committee.

Heather Riley and Cristin Blatt read to a classroom.

Community Outreach Committee members Megan Johnson, Carla Wollach, Jennifer Hansen (co-chair of COC), and Tara Jacobson.

Lawyers Club member Tracy Loughridge’s daughters share in the fun, Lily as Dorothy and Lucy as a Witch. Community Outreach chair Michele Macosky’s son Jeremy as a train.

Judge Ruben Brooks a longtime participant, reads to a classroom full of children.

Photos by Jane Engelman

14th Annual Halloween Read-In Participants
(* denotes a Community Outreach Committee Member)

All our volunteers in costume for the fun filled event.

Steve Allen
Thomas Anderson
Clarice Estrada Barrelet
Cristin Batt
Rachel Bauer
Sarah Boot
Hon. Ruben Brooks
Linda Brown
*Rachel Cano
Rafael Castellanos
Natasha Cluff
Melodie Dan
Courtney Darrell
Jeremy Davis
Lenna Doyle
Denis Duchene
Joseph Dunn
*Jane Engelman
Aurelia Flores
Hon. Ron Frazier
Eric Ganci
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Allison Goddard
Nicole Heeder
John Hankins
Kristin Hogue
*Tara Jacobson
*Megan Johnson
Rosanna Kendrick
Abigail Kiernan
Elizabeth Knowles
*Kate Kowalewski
Jessica Labrecnis
Lily Loughridge
Lucy Loughridge
Tracy Loughridge
*Michele Macosky
Hon. Margaret Mann
Joe Martinez
Jennifer McCoolough
Jylan Megahad
Jennifer Mendoza
Iris Mitrakos
Efren Nava
Kristin Ojeil
Patrick Ojeil
Renee Lande O’Malley
*Alexandra O’Neill
Romina Otoya
Roman Partida
Heather Riley
Patrick Roch
Alex Rodriguez
April Rodriguez
*Anna Romanskaya
Anne Rudolph
Renee Schor
Marcus Smith
Karrene Stanard
Margaret Tafoya
*Amanda Thompson
Katie Tooma
Victor Torres
Michelle Walbret
*Carla Wollach

“Thank you to all our members for your generous donations to the Fund for Justice, and congratulations to the grant and scholarship recipients.”

Wendy Behan — President, Lawyers Club San Diego

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North County Chapter donates $400, truckload of clothes in Suit Drive

By Sydney Kirkland

In September the North County chapter kicked off its second annual month-long suit drive to benefit the Women’s Resource Center in Oceanside. A deserving recipient, WRC is “dedicated to providing the highest quality supportive services, counseling, shelter and education to women, men and children involved in or threatened by domestic violence or sexual assault.”

Many victims of domestic violence are forced to leave their abusive environment abruptly, often with just the clothing on their backs. Although the WRC provides training and support to help its clients reenter the job market, these efforts can be hindered if appropriate work attire is not available.

The North County chapter was able to deliver $400 in cash donations plus 73 bags of high-end suits, blouses, shoes, purses and accessories. They also collected several hygiene items and stuffed animals for use in providing immediate, short-term relief to shelter residents and their children. Center employees expressed gratitude at this outpouring of support by the North County chapter.

An enthusiastic thank you is extended to the LSI division of LPS in Santa Ana, Calif., for its generosity in assisting with our drive and helping to make it a resounding success. LSI employees organized a site-wide campaign that literally produced a truckload of donations along with several hundred dollars in cash contributions. This is the second year LSI was a major contributor to the suit drive.

LSI is the largest centralized provider of appraisal, title and closing services to first mortgage and home equity lenders as well as to mortgage servicers and investors. More information can be found at http://www.lsi-lps.com.

Sydney Kirkland is the president of the North County Lawyers Club chapter.

The Lawyers Club Newsletter Committee would like to thank Genevieve Suzuki for volunteering to help edit articles in this month’s issue and in months to come. Ms. Suzuki worked previously as a professional journalist and is a member of the Lawyers Club Newsletter Committee.
Remembering Michael Cowett

By Arlene Prater and Paula de Sousa

Lawyers Club recently lost a friend. C. Michael Cowett, a longtime supporter of the organization and one of its first male members, passed away in early October. The husband of one of Lawyers Club’s early members and 1976-77 president, the Hon. Patricia Cowett, Mr. Cowett encouraged the young associates at the firm, Best Best & Krieger, to be active in Lawyers Club as he viewed it as a great place to gain valuable education and peer support.

Those of us who had the privilege of practicing with Mr. Cowett know the legal profession has lost one of its best. Mr. Cowett loved the practice of law and his specialization in water law and public agency representation. He had a keen legal mind and approached every matter from the standpoint of getting the absolute best result for the client. According to BB&K partner Jim Gilpin, “Mike’s real strength was that he saw his role as finding solutions to whatever problems there were. Everything to him wasn’t about fights or litigation but about finding solutions.”

Mr. Cowett began his legal career at Jennings, Engstrand & Henrikson in San Diego after graduating from UC Davis Law School in 1972. He served as managing partner of JEH for three years, and, as chair of its Public Agency Practice Group, Mr. Cowett contributed greatly to the firm’s legacy as a public agency law powerhouse. In 1993, Mr. Cowett joined Best Best & Krieger to help open the San Diego office. He served as managing partner of the local office for five years and for many years on the firm-wide management committee. As Gilpin recently said, “He was the foundation of this office – a pillar – in terms of mentoring and being an example to associates and partners.”

Since the early 1970s, Mr. Cowett provided legal advice to the region’s water, sewer and transportation agencies. He tackled many major regional water law matters for clients such as Padre Dam Municipal Water District, Rancho California Water District, Sweetwater Authority, and Valley Center Municipal Water District. He took great pride in his role as general counsel to his public agency clients, in assisting them with providing essential services to so many people. Clients respected him, not only for his extensive expertise and knowledge in his public agency specialization, but also for his no-nonsense approach and creative problem solving skills. During his 37 years of practice, Mr. Cowett won the admiration and trust of legions within the legal industry and throughout the community.

Mr. Cowett was passionate about many things in addition to the law: family, friends, savoring his free time, and much more. His favorite pastimes were golf, swimming in La Jolla Cove and extensive overseas travel, especially extended stays in Paris, France.

Mr. Cowett leaves behind wife Patsy, son Jason, daughter Paige and scores of friends and admirers. Those wishing to honor him may do so by contributing to the Michael Cowett Scholarship Fund. It was Mr. Cowett’s wish to provide a scholarship that would support a UC law student in his or her pursuit of a career in public agency law. Contributions can be sent to: Michael Cowett Scholarship Fund, 2508 Decator Road, San Diego, CA 92106.

It is impossible to express the void left by his passing. We are thankful to have had the opportunity to know Mr. Cowett, work with him and call him our friend.

Arlene Prater and Paula de Sousa are partners in the San Diego office of Best Best & Krieger.
Pipeline to Leadership program provides practical advice, inspiration for women and men interested in serving on boards and commissions

By Jodi Cleesattle

The 50-plus women and men who attended Lawyers Club’s “Pipeline to Leadership: Securing Spots on Boards and Commissions” Oct. 14 enjoyed advice and inspiration from some big names in San Diego boardrooms.

The program, sponsored by Lawyers Club’s Leadership Development Committee, featured speakers from non-profit, corporate, business-related and government boards; a mini-training session on preparing for board service; a networking reception; and a take-home resource directory providing information about more than 100 local boards and commissions. The program was co-sponsored by Run Women Run and Junior League of San Diego and hosted by DLA Piper LLP, which also sponsored the networking reception.

The ABCs of Board Service

Linda Sweeney, executive director of Corporate Directors Forum, kicked off the program with an introduction to board service, explaining how boards operate, how to prepare for board service, and how to choose the right board for you.

“A board is like a family,” she said. “There’s usually some level of dysfunction. There’s a lot of love, but also dysfunction.”

Sweeney said board members work with the organization’s leader – the CEO of a corporation or the executive director of a non-profit agency – to set the strategy of the organization and execute the plan. A board needs to make sure the organization has the right CEO or executive director and needs to support that person.

“Your job as a director is the care and feeding of the CEO,” Sweeney said. “As a board member, you need to be able to support the CEO or executive director. They may not be your cup of tea, but you need to be able to support them. … Really, the CEO answers to the board. The CEO doesn’t set the mission or vision for the company.”

A board’s chairperson sets the tone for the board and can determine its effectiveness, Sweeney said.

“The role of the chairman is to lead and get consensus,” she said. “The best chairman knows his job is to build consensus. A good chairman is worth his weight in gold. If you find that a board is chaotic and there’s not a good chairman, step off. At the end of the day, life is too short.”

Getting on Board

Getting a seat on a board is not a matter of sitting around and waiting for an invitation, Sweeney said — those interested in board positions need to take action.

“Most board spots are filled through referrals and personal contacts,” she said. “You don’t just get discovered. You usually have to be proactive. You have to be out and about, getting noticed. Develop a good reputation of being collegial and respected, open and helpful.”

Julia Brown, a board member of biotech companies Tagracept, Inc. and Labopharm, Inc., who worked in research positions in the life sciences before getting involved in the executive side of pharmaceutical companies, agreed that networking is important. She said she was invited to join her first couple of boards by directors she knew or the CEO.

“It was more clubby in the past,” Brown said, noting that the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, with its new standards for corporate boards, opened up the board appointment process. “The definition of diversity back in the days when I started out was short white men and tall white men.”

Leadership Development Committee co-chair Jodi Cleesattle (far right) prepares to introduce speakers Ashley Gardner, Julia Brown, Laurie Black and Barbara Bry.

Brown, who also is a board member of Corporate Directors Forum and CONNECT and the board vice chair of the UCSD Foundation, said she has often been one of only a handful of women on corporate boards, and she attributes that to the leadership pipeline.

“To get on a corporate board, you have to think about the feeder system,” Brown said. “Corporate board members come from the C-suite, the C-level positions of CEO and CFO. To increase the number of women on boards, you need to increase the number of women in leadership positions.”

Laurie Black, a member of the Centre City Development Corp. and a former Commissioner for the San Diego Port District who also has held seats on the boards of the San Diego Convention and Visitors Bureau and the San Diego County Regional Water Quality Control Board, said women interested in getting appointed to government boards and commissions also need to network.

“In the political world, it’s absolutely about who you know,” she said. Ashley Gardner, executive director of the Women’s History Museum and Education Center and a member and former chair of the San Diego County Commission on the Status of Women, said government boards have a fairly simple — but often lengthy — application process. When she applied for a position on the Commission on the Status of Women, she said, it took about a year-and-a-half before she was appointed, and she’d almost forgotten she had applied.

“The challenge is to follow through on the process,” Gardner said. “Being proactive is the most important thing.”

The speakers emphasized the importance of choosing a board that’s right for you.
“Think about what your goals are,” Gardner said. “Are they visibility, community service, career enhancement? You really have to look at what you’re trying to achieve. Visit the organization and make your wishes known that you really want to serve.”

Brown agreed, advising potential board members to get their names out there.

“With corporate boards, it’s important to know the pool of people a board chooses from,” Brown said. “Build your skills and manage your career because the C-level is the most common talent pool. Let people know you’re interested, and participate in organizations like the Corporate Directors Forum so you understand governance.”

She added that potential board members need to promote their skills to the organizations they want to join.

“The best board has a diverse set of strategically relevant skills,” Brown said. “You have to think about what you’re going to bring to the board. Let them know your skills so they can capitalize on them.”

Run Women Run founder Barbara Bry, who moderated the program, said boards generally consider “talent, treasure and time,” and she said most boards want members who bring at least two out of the three.

“A good way to get started is to be on a committee,” said Bry, who serves on the boards of Planned Parenthood of San Diego & Riverside Counties and the San Diego Jewish Women’s Foundation. “Show the board the work you do. Let them see you in action.”

Doing Due Diligence

Sweeney said it’s flattering to be offered a seat on a board, but she warned that the flattery shouldn’t make you forget to do your due diligence. She recommended researching the history of the board and its member turnover rate, as well as the financial condition of the board and whether it has been involved in any litigation. She also said potential board members should be clear about their responsibilities.

“What do they want you to do?” Sweeney said. “What do they expect of you? You don’t want to bite off more than you can chew.”

Brown said boards typically meet four to six times a year when “life is normal.” She said corporate board members must spend a significant amount of time preparing for meetings, reading documents and materials in advance.

Black said non-profit board members should come equally prepared to board meetings, but don’t always do so.

“On a non-profit board, it’s very different from a corporate board,” she said. “Board members do not always prepare. They show up and read the documents during the meetings. ... But if you’re going to do this, you want to be prepared. It will make a difference in your experience and to the board.”

Gardner agreed, and she noted that board members need to understand that there is work that goes on between meetings.

“Being a board member is a job,” she said. “It’s not a full-time job, but it’s a job. You have a responsibility, and you have a legal responsibility. ... It’s very rewarding.”

Brown said directors have a duty of care and a duty of loyalty to their boards, but they are protected by the business judgment rule, which generally provides immunity from liability when decisions in the scope of their duties are made in good faith.

“You don’t have to always be right, but you have to go through the right process,” Brown said.

Benefits of Board Service

Serving on boards provides many benefits, the speakers said, from career enhancement to skills building to the good feeling of giving back.

Bry, whose first board experience was on the board of the Children’s Museum when the museum was being established, said she gained new skills from the experience.

“I learned a lot about politics and grass-roots organizing,” said Bry, who served as the board’s president from 1990 to 1993. “It was a start-up. We didn’t have any of the elites on our board. I went on the board without doing any due diligence, and I was part of building an organization. It was a great experience.”

Brown said the skills learned in working on boards and the networking opportunities can translate to career success.

“There are a lot of skills you can develop that are transferable back in the workplace,” Brown said, citing a Deloitte LLP study that found that employees who volunteered on boards outside of work had greater success in their careers.

Black said she gets satisfaction working on boards whose missions she finds meaningful.

“I like being in the eye of the storm,” she said. “I like bringing together dysfunctional municipalities that don’t talk to each other.”

She added that she commits only to boards for which she feels passionate.

“Serving on a board is a life enhancement,” Black said. “Anything I put my time into, I have to love and be passionate about. If I don’t love what I’m doing for five days or 30 days in a row, I’m out of there.”

Brown agreed.

“You have to have a passion because not every day is fun,” Brown said.

Lawyers Club members interested in getting a copy of the directory of non-profit boards and commissions compiled for the Pipeline to Leadership program should contact the Lawyers Club office at (619) 595-0650 or info@lawyersclubsandiego.com.

Members interested in joining Lawyers Club’s Leadership Development Committee to plan and organize future programs and events may contact co-chairs Jodi Cleesattle at jodi.cleesattle@doj.ca.gov or Johanna Schiavoni at johanna.schiavoni@lw.com.

Jodi Cleesattle, a deputy attorney general with the California Department of Justice, is a Lawyers Club vice president and co-chair of Lawyers Club’s Leadership Development Committee.
Experts discuss challenges of healthcare reform at October luncheon

By: Zelekha Amirzada

“No one in their right mind would have designed the healthcare system the way it is today.” This statement was expressed by panelist physician Philip Diamond, an OB/GYN and longtime women’s healthcare advocate at the Oct. 21 Lawyers Club luncheon.

“What we are trying to do is fix an incredibly inefficient system,” said Diamond. Many Americans share Diamond’s sentiment that healthcare in the United States is a broken system desperately in need of repair. At the October luncheon, three panelists with different perspectives came together to voice their opinions regarding healthcare reform. Diamond is past chief of the OB/GYN department at Sharp Mary Birch Hospital for Women and past chair of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists’ National Committee on Professional Liability. Diamond was joined by Kitty Juniper, a Lawyers Club member and attorney who represents healthcare related entities in a variety of business transactions and regulatory matters, as well as Patricia Burrascano, a family law attorney who served as the third panelist for the lively discussion.

Burrascano, who is now a family law attorney but was once a former insurance agent, stated inefficiencies in the healthcare system include how “insurance companies engage in cost-containment practices” and provide insurance agents with “bonuses for denying claims.”

Burrascano also discussed her personal struggle with obtaining private healthcare insurance in our current system. She sought private insurance for herself and her son outside of an employee plan. The pre-existing conditions caveat, however, “really limited the places I could go to try to get coverage for the both of us.”

Even having found a medical plan, Burrascano still struggled. “When you haven’t met your high deductible, you start making decisions about, okay, do I really need to go to a doctor, because I’m the one that’s going to pay the whole thing. It really limits your choices sometimes when you have these policies with high deductibles and large out-of-pocket expenses.”

Healthcare reform seeks to cover more individuals. “As of 2014-2019, we will be seeing a few positive changes like increased access for health insurance,” said Juniper. Insurance companies “cannot deny coverage to individuals 19 and younger with preexisting conditions.”

Healthcare reform will also involve Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs), where the emphasis will be on medical evidence and quality performance standards. The ACOs will essentially “follow the patient.” With ACOs, “hopefully, for once, the patient will be in the drivers seat,” said Juniper.

“I think it is an exciting time,” Juniper said. For additional information she recommended visiting healthcare.gov. “It will pop up all the plans available to you and the costs.”

Diamond highlighted issues regarding the ambiguous framework of healthcare reform. “Healthcare reform is a compact or an agreement between the federal govern-
Paula Rosenstein summarizes the results of the 2010 Equality Survey at the October luncheon.

Ashleigh Angeletti, Matt Eller, Devin Roepke, Nicole Wells

Photos by Eric Ganci

Investors should consider the investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses of a fund carefully before investing. For the prospectus containing this and other information for any of the Waddell & Reed Advisors or Ivy Funds, call your financial advisor or visit www.waddell.com. Please read the prospectus carefully before investing.

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FOR THE SECOND YEAR IN A ROW, both the Waddell & Reed Advisors Funds and Ivy Funds top the list of the “Best Mutual Fund Families” over the last five years in an annual ranking published by Barron’s. In the newspaper’s Feb. 1, 2010 issue, Waddell & Reed Advisors Funds ranked first and Ivy Funds second in terms of performance over the five-year period ended Dec. 31, 2009, out of 54 fund families ranked.

When building your investment portfolio, you’ll want to take the longer view. And when you do, you’ll find the persistent performance of Waddell & Reed, working across many types of market cycles.

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Barron’s rankings are based on asset-weighted returns in five categories: domestic equity, world equity (including international and global portfolios), mixed equity (stocks and bonds), taxable bonds and tax-exempt funds. For the period ending 12/31/09, Ivy Funds ranked 39 and Waddell & Reed Advisors ranked 49, out of 61 firms for the 1 yr. period. Ivy Funds ranked 18 and Waddell & Reed Advisors 24, out of 48 firms for the 10 yr. period. For the period ending 12/31/08 Waddell & Reed Advisors Funds also were the top ranked fund family, and Ivy Funds number three, out of 53 fund families over the 5-year period. Sales charges are not included in the calculation of returns, and the ranking period included time periods during which some funds’ returns were affected by expense reduction arrangements.

Jeff Light, Lauren Lendzion, Cindy Freeland, Meryl Maneker
Lawyers and families celebrate diversity at an end of summer potluck

By Lizzette Herrera

Law students, attorneys and their families all gathered on the afternoon of October 17th for the annual Minority Bar Potluck. Lawyers Club and the local minority bar associations sponsored the event, which was hosted by Mintz Levin Cohn Ferris Glovsky and Popeo. The participating groups included Lawyers Club, the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association, Pan Asian Lawyers of San Diego, San Diego La Raza Lawyers Association, Filipino Bar Association, South Asian Bar Association, Korean American Bar Association, Tom Homann Law Association, and Native American Law Association.

Udoka Nwanna, Lawyers Club Board member and founder of the event stated:

“I so enjoy putting this event together each year. It is nice to hear from attorneys and students that they enjoy getting away from the trappings of ‘formal’ networking and just be themselves. It’s nice to see a colleague, who you normally see in a suit in court, running around chasing their toddler through the foyer...it’s heart-warming and priceless!”

Fred C. Hernandez, who practices Intellectual Property Law at Mintz Levin stated he was pleased that his firm could continue to be involved:

“Mintz Levin was pleased and very proud to host the Multi Bar Potluck Mixer again this year. The turnout was fabulous and it was great to interact with other attorneys and law students in a casual atmosphere. We look forward to many future events and working to promote diversity in the legal profession. “

Law students, law graduates and attorneys alike were able to relax and enjoy the festivities. Gayani Weerasinghe, a first year law student at California Western stated, “I enjoyed the event because it was more casual and allowed interaction between law students, attorneys and their families in a more relaxed environment. Also, the food was great! “

Rupa Singh, a Lawyers Club Board Member and co-founder of SABA-SD concurred. “As my daughter and other children ate delicious food and scampered around Mintz Levin’s beautiful conference rooms and hallways, I was struck by how this particular event symbolizes the powerful concept of an institution “paying it forward” by extending a warm welcome to minority law students, attorneys, and their families on the profession’s behalf.”

Lizzette Herrera is the Assistant Director of Public Service and Diversity at the University of San Diego School of Law. She is also an adjunct professor at Southwestern College and is Vice President of La Raza Lawyers.

Second annual Lawyers Club speed referral networking extravaganza a huge success

By Rosalie Kramm

Lawyers Club members participated in a networking event in a one-on-one setting similar to “speed dating” in the second annual speed referral networking extravaganza on Oct. 12. Several speed networking rounds took place, allowing each attorney the opportunity to meet and network one-on-one with other attorneys who practice in a broad range of specialties, including estate planning, land use, family law, personal injury, real estate transactions, criminal defense, employment law, health law, complex litigation, and appellate law.

Participants in each round had six minutes to get to know each other and answer unique questions that fostered open discussions about their practices, areas of specialization, unique skills, practice successes and referrals experience. A bell was rung at the end of each round, signaling to the participants to move on to their next “match.” Attorneys continued through the rounds and had additional time before and after the speed referral sessions to meet other attorneys and network in an informal setting. Wine and cheese were served, compliments of Kramm Court Reporting and Duane Morris LLP.

Mary Robberson, a Lawyers Club member who practices in the area of business law at Higgs, Fletcher & Mack, said, “I’ve already referred someone to one of the women I met at speed dating. It was a great event.” It was requested that Lawyers Club repeat this exciting event quarterly.

Funds received from the event will be used to support the Lawyers Club Fund for Justice, which supports the education and promotion of equality in our community. Special thanks to Karen Crawford of Duane Morris LLP and Jennifer Hansen of Hooper Lundy & Bookman for assisting in organizing this event.

Based on its success, the Lawyers Club members plan to organize another speed networking event in 2011. Input regarding this event and future speed networking events can be provided to Karen Crawford at KSCrawford@duanemorris.com, Jennifer Hansen at jhansen@health-law.com, or Rosalie Kramm rosalie@kramm.com

Rosalie Kramm owns Kramm Court Reporting & Legal Video.
New Member Profile

Richard Huver

By Genevieve A. Suzuki


Education: He graduated with a B.A. in Business Administration from the University of San Diego, took a year off and then attended four years of night law school at Southwestern University School of Law in Los Angeles.

Hometown: Huver was born and raised in North Hollywood before he moved to La Canada for high school.

Years lived in San Diego: He moved to San Diego in 1994, right after the Northridge earthquake, and has lived here ever since. “Spending four years at USD was enough to make me fall in love with San Diego,” Huver said. “After having my first child, it was an easy decision that raising kids in San Diego was far better than raising them in Los Angeles.”

Why he belongs to Lawyers Club: Encouraged by friends to look into Lawyers Club, Huver attended last December’s luncheon. “I was so impressed with the work Lawyers Club was doing that I decided to join then and there,” he said. “It is an organization that gives back to the community as much as if not more than providing benefits, education and social networking opportunities to its membership. Making a difference in the local community and society as a whole is very important for our profession and Lawyers Club embraces this value wholeheartedly.”

On maintaining a work/life balance: “Raising three kids and working full time did not leave much room for ‘balance.’ But as much as I can, I leave work at the office rather than bringing it home every night. It helps to keep my home more of a refuge from the daily grind rather than just another place I’m doing work,” said Huver.

The San Diego judge and lawyer he most admires: “That is a difficult question because there are so many it would be unfair to single out just one lawyer or judge,” he said. “To me, plaintiff lawyers as a whole who work on a contingency fee and put their time and money at risk for the sake of their client deserve recognition and admiration. Mothers who juggle the difficult ‘job’ of raising their kids while working in the demanding legal profession should get an award. And I greatly respect judges who are able to balance the need for maintaining control of their calendar while also having an understanding of what it is like to be a trial lawyer with a busy practice.”

Non-law interests: Huver’s recreation of choice is golf, which fits because his twins joined their high school golf team this year as freshmen. “I’m able to spend time with them while doing something I enjoy,” he said. Huver also has season tickets to the Padres, which allows him to spend quality time with each of his three sons, one son at a time (he has two seats).

Other involvements: Huver has belonged to the Consumer Attorneys of San Diego since moving to San Diego and served as president in 2006. He also belongs to the San Diego County Bar Association, where this year he was appointed to the Judicial Evaluation Committee and made co-chair of the Law Practice Management and Marketing Section.

Welcome to New Lawyers Club Members

The following individuals have joined the ranks of Lawyers Club of San Diego. Lawyers Club welcomes all of its new members and encourages them to get involved at social and networking events and with the many Lawyers Club committees, projects and programs.

| Casey Ames | Abigail Kiernan |
| Ma. Ana Clarisa Apacible | Jim Koerber |
| Andrea Bayly | Kendra Lavelle |
| Mark Bradshaw | Cortney Lemos-Crawford |
| Lisa Chung | Kerri Lutfey |
| Joanna de Vos | Kimberly Mulder |
| Kathryn Farquhar | Alexia Peters |
| Renee Galente | Grace Pugal |
| Susan Gilmor | Devon Roepcke |
| Jacob Stipp | Margaret Tofaya |
| Margaret Tafoya | Melanie Waltz |
| Nicole Wells | Hilary Williams |
| Kim Wright |  |
Balance Brainstorm

Lawyers Club members manage email overload

By Lea Fields-Bernard

In our profession we cannot help but be inundated with emails throughout the day from colleagues, organizations, family, friends and vendors. This month’s Balance Brainstorm asked Lawyers Club members to share suggestions on dealing with email traffic. Tips ranged from creating an elaborate filing system to simply ignoring them all until the time is right.

Filtering into an Automatic Filing System

“I managed to create a relatively elaborate automatic filing system to filter my emails as they come in. For example, when an email contains the word “bulk,” it automatically goes to my “junk” folder. When an email relates to a publication subscription or one of my organizations, it automatically goes to my “news and events” folder. When an email notifies me of a fax or other correspondence relating to client files, it automatically goes to my “correspondence” folder and sometimes even a subfolder for a specific client. I find that this automatic filing system allows me to better organize and quickly see what is coming in during the day, and it avoids any important emails getting lost in the shuffle.”

Tamera M. Weisser, Associate
Jones Day

The Hierarchy System

“I manage email traffic as follows:

1) I only check email 2 times daily – once in the morning at about 10 a.m. and again in the afternoon at about 4 p.m. Otherwise, it is too distracting.

2) As I look at the list, I pick out the ones from clients and opposing counsel first, and the calendaring updates from my assistant.

3) If I can’t deal with a request or an email at the time, I mark it with a “follow up” flag. The ones that need immediate answers get a red flag, the ones that relate to money (potential clients, work assignments) get flagged green, and personal items get a purple flag.

4) I am on three list serves. I notify the list serves that I only want urgent emails during a work day. Hundreds can back up over several days and then out of frustration I don’t revisit them until the next weekend or later. I have had more than 1,000 unopened emails in my inbox during production of a brief in a large case. It's very tough on social relationships. I don't know any trial or appellate lawyer who has an answer to email.”

Charles Bird, Partner
Luce, Forward, Hamilton & Scripps, LLC

Respond Immediately if you Can

Setting up rules in Outlook helps me manage my email traffic. I also try to respond to an email right away if it takes less than a minute or two. Once I've responded to an email I move it out of my inbox and into a subfolder, so my inbox should only include emails that I need to respond to or address. On a good day that is 100 emails.

Wendy Behan, Partner
Casey Gerry Schenk Francavilla Blatt & Penfield

Lea Fields-Bernard is a trial attorney and owner of Trial Dogs, a trial training, consulting and support firm. She may be reached at SDesq94@gmail.com.

Balance Brainstorm

Question of the Month

Picture the scenario that we have all experienced: It is the end of a long day or week. The thought of cooking dinner for yourself or your family sends shudders down your spine. You simply do not have the energy to lift a pan so you reach for the telephone instead. This month Balance Brainstorm wants to know:

Which restaurant(s) do you frequent for take-out and what do you order from the menu?

Responses will be included in the February issue of Lawyers Club News. Please send your response, along with your full name, job title and employer name, to Lea Fields-Bernard at sdesq94@gmail.com. Answers may be edited for space. Members are also invited to submit questions relating to balance issues that they would like answered by other Lawyers Club members.
Leadership Opportunities

Opportunities for leadership around the county

By Samantha M. Everett

The Lawyers Club Leadership Development Committee encourages Lawyers Club members to apply for positions on the many city, county and non-profit boards and commissions serving San Diego County. The committee advises members to contact the individuals listed to confirm any openings prior to applying, as some openings may have been filled. If you have information about committee openings or leadership positions that may be of interest to Lawyers Club members, please contact Samantha Everett at severett@wilsonturnerkosmo.com.

City of Chula Vista Boards and Commissions

The Board of Appeals and Advisors currently has two open seats. The Board of Appeals and Advisors works with the Planning and Building Department to address issues pertaining to building construction; investigates and advises on the suitability of alternate materials, types of construction and interpretation of the adopted Uniform Code; conducts public hearings and recommends to the City Council the passage of new legislation concerning construction; hears appeals relating to determinations by the Fire Chief or director of planning and building pursuant to adopted Uniform Codes. For more information, contact Jennifer Quijano in the mayor and council offices at (619) 691-5044, or via e-mail at jquijano@chulavistaca.gov. To apply visit http://www.chulavistaca.gov/City_Services/Administrative_Services/City_Clerk/Boards/application.asp.

Lawyers walk for charity

By Sydney Kirkland

Several members of Lawyers Club once again helped raise money for the San Diego Zoo by participating in its annual Zoo Walk, which benefitted polar bears this year. Attendees were able to walk through the Zoo before it was open to the public. Animal ambassadors and live entertainment were staged throughout the event route, making for a special day. After the walk, Joan Embry, made popular with her regular appearances on the Johnny Carson show, had an informative animal presentation. It was a roaring good time for everyone.

Sydney Kirkland is the president of the North County Lawyers Club chapter.

City of San Diego Boards and Commissions

San Diego’s Senior Affairs Advisory Board has four open seats. The board advises the mayor and city council on policy and issues relating to transportation, security at home, improved intergenerational interaction, meal delivery, housing, improved city-county cooperation, and other issues. The board also advises the mayor and city council regarding the formation of laws, policies or procedures that may affect seniors. Board members are appointed by the mayor and confirmed by city council and must be senior service delivery professionals or experts or city-at-large Seniors (over 60). Members serve two-year terms. For more information
West Coast Resolution Group, a division of the National Conflict Resolution Center, has one purpose— to provide exceptional mediation and dispute resolution services to the legal community.

To achieve that goal we have assembled a core group of highly respected neutrals with vast experience litigating and resolving civil cases.

Cont’d from pg 17 visit http://www.sandiego.gov/saab/ or contact the City Clerk at (619) 533-4000.

The Citizens Equal Opportunity Commission has 5 seats opening in January. The Commission monitors and evaluates the Equal Opportunity Program of the City, advises the mayor, council, civil service commission, and other appropriate agencies; assists in recruitment from historically under-represented groups, women and the disabled, and promotes the city of San Diego as an equal opportunity employer of individuals and firms desiring to contract with the city. Commissioners are appointed by the mayor and confirmed by the council and serve two-year terms. The Commission includes representatives from each of the following historically under-represented groups: Latino, African-American, Filipino, American Indian, Asian/Pacific Islander, Disabled, and Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender. The remaining members are appointed from the city at large. For more information visit http://www.sandiego.gov/eoc/about/commission.shtml or contact the City Clerk at (619) 533-4000.

The Civil Service Commission has one seat opening in January. The Commission appoints the City's Personnel Director; recommends civil service rules to the city council; and generally supervises city civil service system. In addition, it annually recommends to the council classifications of employees which merit special salary consideration because of recruitment or retention problems or other special factors. Members are appointed by the mayor and confirmed by the council and serve five-year terms. For more information visit the commission's website at http://www.sandiego.gov/empopp/about/civilser.shtml or contact City Clerk Elizabeth Maland at (619) 533-4000.

The City’s Planning Commission has one seat opening in January. The Planning Commission conducts hearings on all special use permits, all re-zonings, all community plans, the general plan, and considers land use ordinances and such other improvements as council may, by ordinance, determine. Commissioners are appointed by the mayor, confirmed by the council, and serve four-year terms. For more information visit the commission’s website at http://www.sandiego.gov/planning-commission/ or contact City Clerk Elizabeth Maland at (619) 533-4000.

The City’s Human Relations Commission currently has one opening. The commission conducts programs designed to bring groups together to close gaps resulting from past discriminatory practices; addresses current or ongoing intergroup tensions; mediates disagreements among groups, individuals, and organizations which result from discriminatory practices; and prepares and disseminates educational and informational material relating to prejudice and discrimination and recommend ways and means of eliminating such prejudice and discrimination. Members are appointed by the mayor and confirmed by the council and serve four-year terms. For more information visit the commission’s website at http://www.sandiego.gov/human-relations/ or contact City Clerk Elizabeth Maland at (619) 533-4000.

The Board of Directors for the Southeastern Economic Development Corporation has one open seat. The SEDC promotes economic development and revitalization in the Southeast San Diego area, provides economic development services, and makes recommendations concerning redevelopment plans and project areas. Members are appointed by the city council and serve three-year terms. For more information contact SEDC at (619) 527-7345 or visit http://www.sedcinc.com/.

Samantha M. Everett is an associate with the firm of Wilson Turner Kosmo LLP and a member of the Lawyers Club Leadership Development Committee.
December 2010

Wednesday, December 1
Board meeting

Thursday, December 2
East County Chapter Annual Holiday Judges Reception. 5:15-7:15 p.m. Ronald Reagan Community Center, 195 E. Douglas Ave., El Cajon. The event is free, and no RSVP is required.

Friday, December 3
Stepping Up to the Bar. San Diego County Bar Association annual holiday reception. 5-8 p.m. SDCBA Bar Center, 1333 Seventh Ave., downtown. RSVP online at www.sdcba.org.

Friday, December 10
Spa, Beauty and Wellness Day. Hosted by Dr. Fallah and co-sponsored North County Lawyers Club Chapter. 12 – 5p.m., 1293 Carlsbad Village Drive, Carlsbad. Numerous complimentary happenings and payment only for services you select. Visit Lawyers Club’s tent for additional fun. Details to follow.

Thursday, December 16
Lawyers Club Holiday Luncheon. 12 – 1:15 p.m. Members, $30; non-members, $35; students, $25. Westin San Diego.

January 2011

Thursday, January 20
Lawyers Club Monthly Luncheon at the Bristol. Speaker is Laura Duffy, U.S. Attorney, Southern District of California, topic to be announced. 12-1:15 p.m. Doors open 11:45 a.m. Bristol Hotel, 1055 First Ave. Members, $25. Non-members, $30. Students, $20. At the door if space available, $30. 1.0 MCLE credit.

Thursday, January 27
PALSD/FALSD Annual Dinner. Sponsored by Pan Asian Lawyers of San Diego and Filipino American Lawyers of San Diego. Further information to be announced.

February 2011

Thursday, February 10
Lawyers Club Student Committee’s Interviewing Seminar for Law Students. A practical hands-on experience to learn from attorneys and students. Details to be announced.

Thursday, February 17
Lawyers Club Monthly Luncheon at the Bristol. Fifth Annual “Intimate Dialogue with the Bench” Luncheon and program, 12-1:15 p.m. Doors open 11:45 a.m. Bristol Hotel, 1055 First Ave. Members, $25. Non-members, $30. Students, $20. At the door if space available, $30. 1.0 MCLE credit (ethics).

March 2011

Saturday, March 5
Women’s Resource Fair. Golden Hall. Details to be announced.

Thursday, March 10
Lawyers Club’s Fourth Annual Champagne & Chocolate Affair. 5:30 – 8 p.m. US GRANT. $50/person.

Thursday, March 17
Lawyers Club Monthly Luncheon at the Bristol. Program to be announced. 12-1:15 p.m. Doors open 11:45 a.m. Bristol Hotel, 1055 First Ave. Members, $25. Non-members, $30. Students, $20. At the door if space available, $30. 1.0 MCLE credit.

Thursday, March 24
San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program’s 6th Annual LAF-Off. 5 – 9 p.m. House of Blues.

May 2011

Wednesday, May 25
Lawyers Club Annual Dinner. US GRANT.

June 2011

Friday, June 24
Lawyers Club Golf Tournament. Rancho Bernardo Inn.
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