



NEWS RELEASE

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Lawyers Club to Address Gender Pay Inequity at 3rd Annual Equal Pay Day Leadership Luncheon Featuring San Diego City Council President Sherri Lightner

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Lawyers Club of San Diego, a 1,300-member specialty bar association with a mission to advance the status of women in the law and society, will host its third annual Equal Pay Day Leadership Luncheon Tuesday, April 14.

This year's luncheon will feature San Diego City Council President, Sherri Lightner, the first female city council president in San Diego's history; Joyce Rowland, Sempra Energy Senior Vice President and Chief Human Resources and Administrative Officer; and Sarah Czarnecki, Field Representative for Congressman Scott Peters. Each will address the important topic of pay equity for women.

Equal Pay Day, originated by the National Committee on Pay Equity in 1996, is now called National Equal Pay Day. It is an event that spreads awareness of the pay inequity between men and women. The date symbolizes how far into the new year women must work to earn what men earned in the previous year. It is also a call for action to not just observe pay inequity, but to take steps to eliminate the gap. Lawyers Club's Equal Pay Day Leadership Luncheon is supported by 28 other social justice-focused San Diego County organizations.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, women are paid 78 cents for every dollar men earn. The statistics are even more dire for women of color and older women. The Bureau's American Community Survey reports that Hispanic and Latina women were paid 54 percent of what white men earned in 2013. The U.S. Department of Labor found that from approximately age 35 through retirement, women are typically paid 75 to 80 percent of what men are paid. The Institute for Women's Policy Research estimates that it will take another 50 years to close the wage gap.

"Equal pay for equal work is something everyone supports, but the statistics demonstrate that even when the figures are adjusted to account for differences (such as occupation and education level) there is still a wage gap," Lawyers Club President Patricia Hollenbeck said. "Join us as we discuss steps we can all take to spread awareness and combat this issue of pay inequity."

Lawyers Club organizes the annual Equal Pay Day Leadership Luncheon as part of its commitment to raising awareness about the continuing pay gap and overcoming gender inequality. The luncheon will begin at 12 p.m. at the US Grant Hotel, 326 Broadway, San Diego, CA 92101, and is open to the public. The luncheon costs \$30 for members of Lawyers Club and co-hosting organizations, and \$45 for non-members. Register in advance (required) at www.lawyersclubsandiego.com. All attendees are encouraged to wear red to symbolize how women are “in the red” with their pay.

This event is presented by Lawyers Club’s Equality & Action and Professional Advancement Committees and is supported by the following organizations: American Association of University Women-San Diego Branch, ACLU of San Diego and Imperial Counties, Athena San Diego Association for Women in Science-San Diego, Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association, Girls on the Run San Diego, Girl Scouts San Diego, Healthcare Businesswomen’s Association -Southern California, Hera Hub-Workspace for Women, League of Women Voters, MANA de San Diego, National Asian Pacific American Women’s Forum, National Association of Women Business Owners, National Employment Lawyers Association-San Diego, San Diego County Commission on the Status of Women, San Diego Defense Lawyers, San Diego Leadership Alliance, The San Diego LGBT Community Center, San Diego Women’s Foundation, San Diego Women in Finance, UCSD Women’s Center, VOW – Voices of Women, WINK – Women Inkorporated, Women Evolution, Women Give San Diego, Women in Technology International, Women’s Museum of California, and YWCA San Diego.

To learn more, visit the National Committee on Pay Equity website at <http://www.pay-equity.org>.

Lawyers Club, founded in 1972 with the mission “to advance the status of women in the law and society,” now has more than 1,300 members comprised of female and male attorneys, judges, elected officials, business owners, law students and others in the San Diego community who share Lawyers Club’s interests and goals. For more information about Lawyers Club, visit www.lawyersclubsandiego.com

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