



## ***NEWS RELEASE***

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### **Lawyers Club of San Diego Awards \$27,500 in Charitable Grants to Support At-Risk Women, Youth and Children in San Diego**

***For immediate release December 10, 2013***

Lawyers Club of San Diego will present grants totaling \$19,000 to six local nonprofit organizations at its annual holiday luncheon December 12, 2013. This amount is in addition to \$8,500 granted earlier this year, totaling \$27,500 in grants made by Lawyers Club, through its Fund for Justice, in 2013.

At Thursday's luncheon event, the Lawyers Club Fund for Justice will award grants from its Fall grant cycle, including \$2,500 to the Juvenile Court Book Club; \$2,500 to the Bilateral Safety Corridor Coalition; \$1,500 to Reading Legacies; \$1,500 to Casa Cornelia Law Center; \$4,000 to the San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program (SDVLP) for its domestic violence clinic; and \$7,000 to SDVLP for its annual Women's Resource Fair, co-sponsored by Lawyers Club.

In its Spring grant cycle, the Fund for Justice made grants to four additional organizations: \$2,500 to Musicians for Education, Inc. – Street of Dreams project; \$2,500 to New Entra Casa Corporation, \$2,500 to Kids' Turn San Diego, and \$1,000 to the National Family Justice Center Alliance.

Established in 1997 as the charitable arm of Lawyers Club of San Diego, the Fund for Justice makes charitable gifts to local nonprofit organizations that address social issues and specific problems that relate to Lawyers Club's mission. The Fund also can be utilized to facilitate volunteerism and community service by members of Lawyers Club, and to bring positive attention to the efforts of members, and lawyers in general, in service to their communities. The Fund for Justice is a donor-directed fund at The San Diego Foundation (Fund #6137).

“We are pleased to support organizations that help at-risk women, youth and children in the legal system, those suffering from domestic violence, and homeless and low-income women and children,” said Lawyers Club president Johanna Schiavoni. “Lawyers Club’s mission is to advance the status of women in the law and in society, and the generosity of our members helps us to fulfill that mission. As we have seen the needs of women and girls in our community increase sharply over the past several years, we must remain vigilant in raising awareness about these issues and supporting community organizations that directly address the needs of vulnerable women and children.”

Juvenile Court Book Club will use the funds to purchase books for teen girls incarcerated at the San Diego Girls Rehabilitation Facility, reaching 130 girls per month through the group's 100 percent volunteer-operated book club. The group works with at-risk teens to develop their reading skills and encourage a love of reading that will help them as they pursue their education and enter the working world.

The Bilateral Safety Corridor Coalition, a network of more than 120 government and nonprofit agencies in the United States and Latin America convened along the U.S.-Mexico Border to combat slavery and human trafficking, will use the grant to support its 24-hour emergency referrals and crisis intervention program for victims. The grant also will fund training for the legal community regarding human trafficking – what it is, what laws exist and should be implemented, and what community resources are available.

Reading Legacies, another literacy program, will use its grant to provide women who are incarcerated in the Las Colinas Women's Facility and two state work camps for women with the opportunity to be recorded on DVD reading books to their children. The books and DVDs are sent home to the children, helping the mothers and children maintain a bond, increase literacy, promote education, and reduce the risk of recidivism.

Casa Cornelia Law Center will use its grant funds to support its programs helping provide pro bono legal services to indigent immigrants in the San Diego community – specifically, to provide funding for postage expenses associated with applications for women seeking visas under the Violence Against Women Act.

SDVLP will use its grants to fund an attorney position in its domestic violence restraining orders clinic and to support the annual Women's Resource Fair, which provides medical, legal and social services for homeless, battered and indigent women and their children. Lawyers Club provides more than 20 percent of the budget for the Women's Resource Fair each year, as well as dozens of volunteers.

Lawyers Club will collect donations at the holiday luncheon to support future grants awarded by the Fund for Justice. The Fund for Justice was established in 1999 and awards grants to provide education, research, funding and programming to address social issues and specific problems relating to women and children in San Diego County. It is a donor-directed fund at The San Diego Foundation (Fund #6137). The Fund for Justice awarded its first grant in March 2000 and since then has provided 68 grants totaling \$197,438 to 26 different organizations.

More than 350 Lawyers Club members and friends are expected to attend the holiday luncheon, held at 12:00 pm at The Westin San Diego hotel.

Lawyers Club, founded in 1972 with the mission “to advance the status of women in the law and in society,” now has more than 1,200 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 and the Fund for Justice, visit [www.lawyersclubsandiego.com](http://www.lawyersclubsandiego.com)