



NEWS RELEASE

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Lawyers Club to Host Judges at 8th Annual Bench-Bar Luncheon

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Lawyers Club of San Diego will host 22 local judges and commissioners at its 8th annual Bench-Bar Luncheon Thursday, Feb. 20.

The annual luncheon brings together judges and attorneys in an informal, roundtable setting to discuss career pathways to the bench, courtroom do's and don't's, court budget issues, and issues that confront the legal profession.

Participating judges include U.S. District Judges Irma Gonzalez (ret.) and Dana Sabraw; Fourth District Court of Appeal Administrative Presiding Justice Judith McConnell; Court of Appeal Justices Cynthia Aaron and Judith Haller; Superior Court Presiding Judge David Danielsen; Superior Court Judges Katherine Bacal, Yvonne Campos, Kevin Enright, David Gill, Garry Haehnle, Tamila Ipema, Melinda Lasater, Robert Longstreth, Sharon Majors-Lewis, Amalia Meza, David Oberholtzer, Pamela Parker, Laura Parsky, Stephanie Sontag, Randa Trapp; and Superior Court Commissioner Darlene White.

"I am thrilled with the overwhelming response from judges in the community," said AnneElise Goetz, co-chair of Lawyers Club's Leadership Development Committee, which organized the Bench-Bar Luncheon. "These judges recognize the merits of informally chatting with attorneys and hearing their feedback and experiences in court, and many past attendees tell me they love the insider perspective they get from the judges each year."

Lawyers Club has strong ties to the local judiciary, and its membership includes 55 state and federal court judges, including recent appointments, Superior Court judges Cindy Davis and Keri Katz and Jill Burkhardt, who has been appointed but not yet sworn in as a U.S. Magistrate Judge for the Southern District of California.

In fact, 15 of the past presidents in Lawyers Club's 42-year history – more than a third of Lawyers Club's past presidents – have gone on to become judges. The roster of past presidents currently or previously on the bench includes: Hon. Katherine Bacal (2007-08), Hon. Maureen Hallahan (2003-04), Hon. Paula Rosenstein (2001-02), Hon. DeAnn Salcido (ret.) (2000-01), Hon. Cindy Davis (1999-2000), Hon. Jill Burkhardt (1997-98), Hon. Stephanie Sontag (1995-96), Hon. Cynthia Bashant (1994-95), Hon. Bonnie Dumanis (ret.) (1984-85), Hon. Marilyn Huff (1983-84), Hon. Christine Pate (ret.) (1982-83), Hon. Barbara Gamer (ret.) (1979), Hon. Patricia

Cowett (ret.) (1976-77), Hon. Sheridan Reed (ret.) (1975-76), and Hon. Judith McConnell (1972-74).

“We’re proud to have so many Lawyers Club members, and past presidents, on the bench,” said Lawyers Club president Johanna Schiavoni. “Events like our Bench-Bar Luncheon and our recent program on judicial appointments help fulfill our mission of advancing the status of women in the law and society. The Bench-Bar Luncheon not only provides lawyers with a valuable opportunity to network with judges in a less formal environment, but also the chance to make connections and establish relationships with potential mentors for those seeking the bench. When you literally have a seat at the table, it makes your chances of success in the future all the more tangible – and that is what Lawyers Club and the Leadership Development Committee are all about.”

To help Lawyers Club members and local attorneys learn about the path to the bench, Lawyers Club’s Leadership Development Committee sponsored a Jan. 31 program on judicial appointments featuring Josh Groban, senior adviser to Gov. Jerry Brown. About 120 attorneys attended the program, where Groban explained the judicial appointments process, gave tips on navigating the process, and provided insight into the qualities the governor seeks in potential judges.

The bench-bar luncheon is set for 12-1:15 p.m. at the Westgate Hotel, 1055 Second Ave., downtown. Tickets are \$25 for Lawyers Club members; \$40 for non-members; \$20 for students; and \$40 at the door, if space is available. Tickets are available online at www.lawyersclubsandiego.com.

The bench-bar luncheon also will feature a clothing drive. Lawyers Club is collecting new and gently used business attire for Dress for Success San Diego, a nonprofit organization that helps low-income women transition into the workforce by providing job-appropriate attire as well as professional mentoring and coaching.

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, visit www.lawyersclubsandiego.com

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