



NEWS RELEASE

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Lawyers Club of San Diego's Human Trafficking Task Force Offers Legal Trainings for Judges and Attorneys

For immediate release May 18, 2015

The Lawyers Club of San Diego Human Trafficking Task Force is sponsoring a series of legal trainings throughout San Diego County beginning this week to educate attorneys and judges on human trafficking.

The first training will be offered Thursday, May 21, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. at the San Diego Superior Court's Vista Courthouse Jury Lounge located at 325 South Melrose Drive, Vista, 92081. The second training is set for Saturday, May 30, from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Hera Hub in Mission Valley, 8885 Rio San Diego Drive, Suite 237.

"We are thrilled to roll out these trainings as they are critical to our goal of raising awareness of this issue in the San Diego legal community and empowering attorneys to join in the fight against human trafficking," said Jamie Quient, a Lawyers Club board member who chairs the Human Trafficking Task Force.

The introductory trainings will provide a broad overview of the laws and challenges of human trafficking with perspectives from judges, prosecutors, criminal defense lawyers, and immigration attorneys. The trainings also will address civil remedies for trafficking survivors and what the legal community can do to help in the fight against human trafficking in San Diego. A more advanced training will take place this fall with a focus on *pro bono* representation of human trafficking survivors.

The Human Trafficking Task Force is comprised of attorneys, advocates and community leaders from the private, nonprofit, and public sectors, including representatives from various state and federal government agencies and from the offices of several local elected officials.

In its first year, the task force has helped raise awareness about anti-trafficking legislation, trained attorneys to represent human trafficking victims in obtaining special immigration visas, participated in a human trafficking awareness rally and an awareness walk, co-hosted a screening of the documentary film "A Path Appears: Sex Trafficking in the U.S.A." with KPBS, and provided mentorship and job-skills workshops to sex trafficking survivors. The task force is developing partnerships with anti-trafficking organizations and advocates, planning community trainings to help raise awareness among communities and populations most at risk, tracking the progress of human trafficking bills, and identifying ways to connect human trafficking survivors to attorneys and advocacy organizations. The task force recently released a full report of its activities, which is attached.

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 and the Human Trafficking Task Force, visit www.lawyersclubsandiego.com

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LAWYERS CLUB of San Diego

HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE Public Report

April 21, 2015

I. INTRODUCTION AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Lawyers Club of San Diego's Human Trafficking Task Force was created to identify how Lawyers Club can raise awareness and address the problem of human trafficking in San Diego. The Task Force was the result of an initiative of the Board of Directors to build upon prior initiatives aimed at educating the San Diego legal community about human trafficking and its direct impact on San Diego. The Board voted to create the Task Force on May 13, 2014 and appointed Director Jamie Quient as the Chair. The Task Force is comprised of attorneys, advocates and community leaders from the private, nonprofit and public sectors, including representatives from various state and federal government agencies and the offices of several elected officials.ⁱ Overall, the Task Force brings together distinguished players from throughout the San Diego community in order to join together in the fight against human trafficking.

The Task Force's initial objective was to identify the areas where help is needed to combat human trafficking in San Diego. The Task Force categorized the areas of need as follows: (1) education; (2) survivor services; (3) advocacy and outreach; and (4) support for non-governmental organizations. The Task Force then set about creating and implementing a plan to address these areas of need as discussed in detail below. The purpose of this report is to provide the public with background information on human trafficking in San Diego and an overview of Lawyers Club's plans to address this serious problem facing our community.

II. BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING

What is Human Trafficking?

Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery. United States federal law defines victims of human trafficking to include: children involved in the sex trade, adults age 18 or over who engage in commercial sex through force, fraud or coercion; and anyone forced into labor or services such as domestic workers held in a home or farm-workers forced into labor. In sum, human trafficking is the ultimate violation of basic human rights and is a crime under federal and state law.ⁱⁱ Human trafficking is the world's fastest growing criminal enterprise. The United States is one of the top destination countries for trafficking of people. Data collected between 2010 and 2012 by California's nine regional



Human Trafficking Task Force members at the Junior League of San Diego's Second Annual Human Trafficking Awareness Rally in Balboa Park

human trafficking task forces revealed that 72% of human trafficking victims in California are Americans.ⁱⁱⁱ Traffickers represent every social, ethnic and racial group. The problem is not just an international or national— it is a local problem too.^{iv}

Sex Trafficking

Sex trafficking occurs when people are forced or coerced into the commercial sex trade against their will. Sex trafficking is one of the most common forms of modern-day slavery. The FBI identified San Diego as one of the top high intensity child prostitution areas.^v According to the District Attorney's office, human trafficking is a \$32 billion dollar industry in San Diego, and human trafficking cases have increased 600% in just the last five years.

Criminal organizations and street gangs are increasingly turning to trafficking in persons because human trafficking is more profitable and has a lower risk of detection than drug or arms trafficking. In fact, according to a study by the Urban Institute, pimps and traffickers took home between \$5,000 and \$32,833 a week.^{vi} According to the same study, in 2007 it was estimated that the illicit market for sex in San Diego was \$96.6 million, which was higher than the illicit market for drugs (\$96.3 million) and guns (\$47.7 million).^{vii}

Traffickers use force, drugs, emotional tactics and financial methods to control victims. Young girls are often targeted because traffickers are easily able to establish a bond with young girls and exploit the youth's vulnerability. In addition, traffickers use violence, such as gang rape and other forms of abuse to force the youth to work for them and remain under the trafficker's control. One FBI investigation found that more than 2,800 ads of prostituted children were posted on Craigslist in 2008 alone.^{viii}

Labor Trafficking

Labor trafficking encompasses all forms of labor or services. The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA) defines labor trafficking as: "The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud or coercion, for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage or slavery." As such, labor traffickers use violence, threats, lies and other forms of coercion to force people to work against their will in various industries. In the United States, common types of labor trafficking include domestic servitude, as well as both small and large scale farm and factory work.^{ix} Victims of labor trafficking are also often found in the restaurant and food service industry, hospitality industry, peddling and begging rings, landscaping, construction, and janitorial service businesses. Labor trafficking is under-reported and under-investigated as compared to sex trafficking. Labor trafficking activities are common among undocumented migrant workers in San Diego.^x

III. AREAS OF NEED AND PLAN OF ACTION

The Task Force's initial objective was to identify what Lawyers Club as an organization can do to address the problem of human trafficking in San Diego. The Task Force grouped the areas of need it identified into four main categories: (1) issue education; (2) survivor services; (3) advocacy and outreach; and (4) support for non-governmental organizations. This section provides an overview of the issues identified and the Task Force's plan of action to address them.

1) Issue Education

The Task Force determined that raising awareness of this issue in the legal and broader community is critical to addressing human trafficking in San Diego. There is a common misperception that human trafficking is something that happens in *other* places to *other* people. As such, the first step in engaging the community in the fight against human trafficking is to help ensure the public has a greater understanding of the breadth of the problem in San Diego and its impact on the entire community.

In order to raise awareness of human trafficking, the Task Force launched its Community Education Program. A key element of this program will include the creation of a “train-a-trainer” program wherein human trafficking experts (including Task Force members) train Lawyers Club and community members to educate individuals, organizations, and community groups about this issue.

2) Survivor Services

There is an immense need for San Diego attorneys to provide pro bono representation to survivors of human trafficking in both the criminal and civil context. To help serve this need, the Task Force will identify the practice areas where trafficking survivors seek assistance and help connect interested Lawyers Club members to those in need of these legal services. Lawyers Club will also offer training seminars on pro bono legal representation to human trafficking survivors, including, but not limited to civil restitution cases and assisting survivors with obtaining special immigration visas only available to human trafficking victims.

3) Advocacy and Outreach

Advocacy and coalition-building are critical to the fight against human trafficking. Initially the Task Force will focus on educational advocacy aimed at educating Lawyers Club members about pending human trafficking legislation and educating government officials on the impact of this issue on the San Diego community. The Task Force will also focus on developing strategic partnerships with community groups and other organizations.

4) Support for Non-Governmental Organizations

The Task Force has identified a number of organizations already addressing the areas of need recognized by the Task Force including prevention and survivor support. Lawyers Club will continue to grow its support of these and other organizations that address human trafficking by educating Lawyers Club members about their work, encouraging volunteerism among Lawyers Club members, and encouraging these organizations to apply for grants from Lawyers Club’s non-profit arm the Fund for Justice.

IV. LAWYERS CLUB’S ACTIVITIES

Past Activities Related to Human Trafficking

Lawyers Club has spent the last few years educating its members about the devastating impacts of human trafficking on our local community. In September 2013, the Lawyers Club Board of Directors voted to focus on the issue of domestic sex trafficking as a strategic priority for the organization’s charitable and community service work. The Board committed itself to making tangible progress on raising awareness and providing programming, service opportunities and grants to combat domestic sex trafficking of minors in the San Diego region. Since then, Lawyers Club has co-sponsored numerous programs and outreach events to bring further awareness to this significant problem. These efforts included co-sponsoring a screening of the documentary *Not My Life*, which depicts human trafficking and modern slavery on a global scale; hosting an event featuring sex trafficking survivor and advocate Carissa Phelps; awarding a Fund For Justice grant to the Bilateral Safety Corridor Coalition to fund legal training on human trafficking; and launching a partnership with GenerateHope to provide mentoring and job-skills training to young women who are survivors of sex trafficking.

Continuing the Momentum

Implementing the Task Force's recommendations, the Task Force and its members are hard at work raising awareness about human trafficking and engaging Lawyers Club members in the fight against this heinous crime. January 20, 2015, Lawyers Club partnered with Casa Cornelia Law Center and Procopio, Cory, Hargreaves & Savitch LLP to offer a training on pro bono representation of labor trafficking survivors. Since that training, Casa Cornelia has already placed several new cases with attorneys that participated in this training.



The Task Force members also participated in two human trafficking awareness events in recognition of National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention month in January 2015. First, Task Force members attended the Junior League of San Diego's Second Annual Human Trafficking Awareness Rally in Balboa Park on January 10, 2015. Task Force members Summer Stephan and Susan Munsey and honorary task force member State Senator Marty Block were all speakers at the rally. Lawyers Club also organized a walk-team to attend the Soroptomist of Vista Human Trafficking Awareness Walk on January 24, 2015, at which Task Force member Crystal Anthony was a featured speaker.

Spearheaded by Daphne Delvaux, Task Force members have also continued the partnership between Lawyers Club and GenerateHope by providing mentorship and job-skills training to sex trafficking survivors participating in GenerateHope's recovery program.

In addition, Task Force Chair Jamie Quient spoke to over 60 security professionals at the ASIS International monthly luncheon in February. She presented on the work of the task force and the critical role security professionals play in the fight against human trafficking.

What's Next?

The Task Force has developed an aggressive agenda to tackle issue from a variety of angles. In order to maximize its effectiveness and streamline its objectives, the Task Force created the following five subcommittees, each of which is responsible for implementing the various initiatives outlined above: (1) Community Education; (2) Outreach and Strategic Partnerships; (3) Advocacy; (4) Communications; and (5) Survivor Services.

1. Community Education

The Community Education Subcommittee, co-chaired by Meghan Spieker and Summer Stephan, is in the process of organizing several training programs to educate attorneys and judges on human trafficking. The first training program, scheduled to take place at two locations in May 2015 will provide the legal community with an overview of the laws and challenges of human trafficking. The second training, tentatively scheduled for fall 2015, will focus on pro bono representation of human trafficking survivors including assisting survivors with applying for immigration visas for human trafficking survivors and seeking civil restitution damages. These educational programs will serve as a launch-pad for the "train-a-trainer" program by educating participants on this issue and calling on them to take action by becoming a community educator.

2. Outreach and Strategic Partnerships

The Outreach and Strategic Partnership Subcommittee, co-chaired by Tilisha Martin, Desiree Nash and Amy Myers is in the process of gathering information on the organizations working on the issue of human trafficking and those working with populations at risk of being trafficked such as homeless and foster youth. After compiling a list of relevant actors, this Subcommittee will undertake outreach efforts to develop partnerships with organizations involved in this fight and will organize community trainings to help raise awareness among communities and populations most at risk.

3. Advocacy

The Advocacy subcommittee, co-chaired by Shawn VanDiver and Amanda Katona, will track the progress of all human trafficking bills working their way through the state and federal legislatures, update the Task Force and Lawyers Club members on these bills, works closely with local public officials to raise awareness about this issue.

4. Communications

The Communications Subcommittee, co-chaired by Bhashini Weerasinghe and Daphne Delvaux, disseminates information about human trafficking and the Task Force's events to help raise awareness and keep Lawyers Club members updated on the Task Force's work in this area. The Communications Subcommittee will work through a variety of avenues to raise public awareness about this issue including the Lawyers Club website and newsletter, social media, articles and op-eds for outside publications and press releases.

5. Survivor Services

The Survivor Services subcommittee is co-chaired by Alexa Zanolli and Courtney Strange. This subcommittee is tasked with identifying ways to connect human trafficking survivors to attorneys and advocacy organizations to address the various needs and services required by survivors.

V. CONCLUSION

In sum, with the approval and support of the Lawyers Club Board of Directors, the Task Force is uniquely positioned to have a tangible impact on an issue with a clear connection to the Lawyers Club mission of advancing the status of women in the law and society. Human trafficking is a fundamental barrier to women's advancement as is literally enslaving women and selling their bodies – if women are being enslaved they are not pursuing their own dreams, education or personal freedoms and happiness. The overarching goal underlying all of the Task Force's activities is to engage Lawyer Club's nearly 1,300 members and provide them with the skills and tools necessary to join in the fight against human trafficking in San Diego.

ⁱ For a full list of Lawyers Club of San Diego's Human Trafficking Task Force members, see Appendix.

ⁱⁱ The State of Human Trafficking in California 2012 (Executive Summary)

ⁱⁱⁱ *Id.* at 4.

^{iv} *Id.*

^v <http://www.sdcda.org/preventing/human-trafficking/index.html>

^{vi} Dank, PhD, Meredith; Khan, PhD, Bilal, Downey, P. Mitchell; Kotonias, Cybele; Mayer, Deborah; Owens, Colleen; Pacifici, Laura; Yu, Lilly, "Estimating the Size and Structure of the Underground Commercial Sex Economy in Eight Major US Cities," page 30.

<http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/413047-Underground-Commercial-Sex-Economy.pdf>

^{vii} *Id.* at page 22.

^{viii} <http://www.polarisproject.org/component/content/article/1-national-human-trafficking-hotline/257-internet-based>

^{ix} <http://www.polarisproject.org/human-trafficking/labor-trafficking-in-the-us>

^x Sheldon Zhang & Estela de Los Rios, *Labor Trafficking in San Diego, A Study Jointly Conducted by San Diego State University & CSA San Diego County.*

APPENDIX

Launch of the Lawyers Club Human Trafficking Task Force

The Task Force is comprised of attorneys, advocates and community leaders from the private, nonprofit and public sectors, including representatives from various state and federal government agencies and offices of several local elected officials.

The following people are members of the Task Force:

- Jamie Quient, Procopio, Cory, Hargreaves & Savitch LLP – *Chair*
- Mayra Aguilar, North County Lifeline Project LIFE
- Amanda Aguirre Allen, Aguirre Allen Law
- Crystal Anthony, Anti-Human Trafficking Trainer and Consultant
- Hannah Austin, Procopio, Cory, Hargreaves & Savitch LLP
- Mary Ellen Barrett, District Attorney's Office
- Kristin Beattie, San Diego Sheriff's Department
- Stephanie Beckstrom, Attorney
- Vanessa Bernal, JLC Consultant Services
- Sarah Boot, Blood Hurst & O'Reardon, LLP
- Charity Brandt, YMCA Youth & Family Services
- Gil Cabrera, The Cabrera Firm
- Elizabeth Camarena, Casa Cornelia Law Center
- Christen Cameron, San Diego Police Department
- Ami Carpenter, University of San Diego Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies
- Carmen Chavez, Casa Cornelia Law Center
- Courtney Cutter, Office of the Primary Public Defender
- Daphne Delvaux, Gruenberg Law
- Stephanie Dinnen Reini, Big Brothers Big Sisters
- Deborah Dixon, Gomez Trial Attorneys
- Cheryl Dorenbush, Federal Bureau of Investigation
- Jennifer Love Fischer, Sony Computer Entertainment America
- Renee Galente, Galente Ganci APC
- Jamie Gates, Point Loma Nazarene University Center for Justice and Reconciliation
- Shannon Going, Casa Cornelia Law Center
- Abigail Gurney Stephenson, Co-Chair Women Give San Diego Advocacy Team
- Camille Gustafson, Paul, Plevin, Sullivan & Connaughton LLP
- Melissa Haupt, North County Lifeline Project LIFE
- Patricia Hollenbeck, Duane Morris
- Anna Howard, A.C. Howard Law
- Michelle Ialeggio, District Attorney's Office
- Jessica Jagir, Lawyers Club Vice President
- Kim Jewell, Procopio, Cory, Hargreaves & Savitch LLP
- Brianna Johnson, M.S. Homeland Security
- Kim Jones, Canopy Marketing and Point Loma Nazarene University Center for Justice and Reconciliation
- Marissa Joscelyn, Legal Assistant
- Amanda Katona, Junior League of San Diego and DDN Storage
- Jessica Kiley, University of San Diego School of Law
- Elaine Lawrence, Lawyers Club Executive Director

- Rueben Littlejohn, San Diego Unified School District Police Services
- Christina Lutz, Big Brothers Big Sisters of San Diego County
- Robert Marasco, Procopio, Cory, Hargreaves & Savitch LLP
- Tamara Marthens, North County Lifeline Project LIFE
- Siena Martin, California Western School of Law
- Tilisha Martin, Dependency Legal Group
- Candi Mayes, Dependency Legal Group
- Julie McCabe, Cisco Systems
- Maria McEneaney, Commission on the Status of Women
- Laura McLean, STARS Care Coordinator
- Gretchen Means, Former Deputy District Attorney
- Danielle Moore, Fisher & Phillips, LLP
- Susan Munsey, GenerateHope
- Amy Myers, Big Brothers Big Sisters of San Diego County
- Desiree Nash, Big Brothers Big Sisters of San Diego County
- David Nass, University of San Diego School of Law
- Hilray Nemchik, Barbara Bry for City Council
- Natalia Nyczak, University of San Diego School of Law
- Jennifer Prisk, Commission on the Status of Women
- Maryam Rastegar, University of San Diego School of Law
- Assly Sayyar, Attorney
- Danell Scarborough, Ed. D., San Diego Human Relations Commission
- Johanna Schiavoni, Law Office of Johanna S. Schiavoni
- Amanda Singer, San Diego Family Mediation Center
- Meghan Spieker, Attorney and co-organizer of 2013 ABA Regional Human Trafficking Symposium
- Summer Stephan, District Attorney's Office
- Courtney Strange, California Western School of Law
- Nicole Stenoish, University of San Diego School of Law
- Susan Swan, Gruenberg Law
- Marisa Ugarte, Bilateral Safety Corridor Coalition
- Shawn VanDiver, San Diego State University, Truman Project
- Kaye Van Nevel, Soroptimist of Vista
- Jeff Veltri, FBI
- Megan Walker, Fisher & Phillips
- Bhashini Weerasinghe, Law Office of Bhashini Weerasinghe
- Alexa Zanolli, Law Clerk to Hon. Bernard G. Skomal

The Honorary Members named below are representatives of elected officials and serve on the Task Force in an advisory capacity. These officials were selected to join the Task Force due to their commitment to fight against human trafficking.

- Roberto Alcantar, Office of State Senator Marty Block, Field Representative
- Jamie Fox, Office of San Diego City Councilmember Todd Gloria, Chief of Staff
- Eddie Meyer, Office of Congressman Juan Vargas, Acting District Director
- Alessandra Serano, Assistant U.S. Attorney, Southern District of California
- Chris Ward, Office of State Senator Marty Block, Chief of Staff
- Myrna Zambrano, Office of the Speaker of the Assembly, Toni G. Atkins