



NEWS RELEASE

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9th Circuit Judge Jacqueline Nguyen to Address Lawyers Club at Annual Dinner

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Lawyers Club of San Diego celebrates its 41st anniversary at its Annual Dinner Thursday, May 16, featuring keynote speaker U.S. Ninth Circuit Judge Jacqueline Nguyen. The event, "Writing the Next Chapter," also will include the presentation of annual awards, recognition of Lawyers Club's new president and incoming board members, and entertainment by a spoken word artist.

The dinner is set for Thursday, May 16, at the U.S. Grant Hotel, 326 Broadway, downtown. The reception begins at 5:30 p.m., and the dinner and program are set for 6:30-8 p.m.

Nguyen was nominated by President Barack Obama in 2009 to a seat on the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California. President Obama nominated her in September 2011 to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, and she took the bench in May 2012.

An immigrant whose family fled South Vietnam in 1975, Nguyen started her life in the United States living in an army tent at Camp Pendleton. Her family settled in Los Angeles where she worked in her family's business throughout high school and college. She is the first Asian-American female to serve as a federal appellate judge, the first Vietnamese-American federal judge, and the first Asian-Pacific American female federal judge in California.

Nguyen was a Los Angeles County Superior Court judge from 2002-2009 and previously served as a deputy chief in the General Crimes Division as an Assistant U.S. Attorney and worked in private practice with the law firm of Musick, Peeler & Garrett. She is a 1991 graduate of University of California, Los Angeles, School of Law.

Lawyers Club will present its Belva Lockwood Award to Elaine Alexander, who has served as executive director of the non-profit Appellate Defenders, Inc. since 1979 and has been with the organization since 1973. The award, named for the first woman attorney admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court, recognizes outstanding contributions by a Lawyers Club member. Alexander, a longtime Lawyers Club member, helped create the statewide system providing representation for indigents in criminal, juvenile delinquency and select civil appeals. She has received numerous awards for bringing quality legal services to the indigent, including the Loren Miller Award from the California State Bar, the Kathleen McCree Lewis Award from the

American Academy of Appellate Lawyers, the awards for outstanding service to the profession (2008) and public attorney of the year (1990) from the San Diego County Bar Association, the E. Stanley Conant and Paul Bell Awards from the Defender Organizations of San Diego, the “War Horse” award from the San Diego Criminal Defense Bar Association, and the Defender Services Award from the National Legal Aid and Defender Association.

Lawyers Club will honor past president Tracy Skaddan (2004-2005) with its Community Service Award. Skaddan, General Counsel for Planned Parenthood of the Pacific Southwest, served on the Planned Parenthood board from 2006-2012, including serving as chair from 2009-2010, and serves on Lawyers Club’s advisory board. Prior to being named general counsel of Planned Parenthood in September 2012, Skaddan practiced primarily in Los Angeles working on complex, high-profile civil litigation cases.

Lawyers Club will present a new award this year, the C. Hugh Friedman New Lawyer Award, named in honor of one of Lawyers Club’s founding male members, who was responsible for naming the organization. The dinner program will feature a tribute to Friedman, who passed away in January 2013. Friedman, a distinguished attorney, academic, and prominent community leader, was recognized in 2012 with the Belva Lockwood award, and, in his acceptance remarks, presented a moving call to continued action for gender equality. The new award, named in Friedman’s honor, will recognize a lawyer with less than 7 years in practice who is a leader within Lawyers Club and a champion in advancing the organization’s mission, and the winner will be announced at the annual dinner.

Lawyers Club president Sarah Boot, a prosecutor, will pass the gavel to incoming president Johanna Schiavoni, who recently founded her own firm, Law Office of Johanna S. Schiavoni, a boutique firm specializing in appeals and writs. New board members Eric Ganci, Shalini Kedia, Jamie Quient and Bhashini Weerasinghe also will be recognized.

The dinner will feature entertainment by spoken word artist Rudy Francisco, a poet and activist who is the 2009 National Underground Poetry Slam Champion, the 2010 San Diego Grand Slam Champion, and the 2010 Individual World Poetry Slam Champion. Francisco, a San Diego native, starred in Season 2 of TV One’s “Verses and Flow.”

Lawyers Club, founded in 1972 with the mission “to advance the status of women in the law and society,” now has more than 1,150 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. www.lawyersclubsandiego.com.

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