



## ***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

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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](http://www.lawyersclubsandiego.com)

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