



## ***NEWS RELEASE***

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### **Attorney Johanna Schiavoni Takes Office as Lawyers Club of San Diego's 42nd President**

***For immediate release July 10, 2013***

Johanna Schiavoni, an appellate attorney with the Law Office of Johanna S. Schiavoni, has been elected to serve as the president of Lawyers Club of San Diego for 2013-14. Her one year-term began July 1.

Lawyers Club of San Diego is a volunteer bar association founded in 1972 with the mission "to advance the status of women in the law and society." The organization now has nearly 1,200 members, making it the second largest bar association in San Diego County. Its membership is 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.

Schiavoni is a former Lawyers Club Vice President of Public Relations, three-year member of its board of directors, and chair of several committees, including the Equality Committee and Leadership Development Committee. As president, in addition to leading the 15-member board, Schiavoni will make appointments to more than 30 committee and liaison positions, oversee the organization's activities and events, and work with representatives from similar organizations regionally and nationally to advance Lawyers Club's overall mission. In doing so, she will work alongside Lawyers Club's executive director, Elaine Lawrence.

Schiavoni previewed her agenda for the year at Lawyers Club's annual dinner in May, addressing a crowd of more than 450 attorneys, judges, law students and community members. She identified her goals as "helping Lawyers Club and its members reach out, reach up and reach back."

"To build power, we must collaborate, network, make ourselves visible and our voices heard," Schiavoni said. "Lawyers Club is doing this by identifying barriers that continue to impede women's advancement and working to overcome them."

In the coming year, Lawyers Club will address pay inequity for women, including women attorneys; strategies for conducting salary and fee negotiations; effective leadership and management practices; rainmaking and using diversity as a way to build business; and self-advocacy as a mechanism for gaining recognition and advancement.

Lawyers Club also is focused on helping its members excel individually, reaching goals they set for themselves, Schiavoni said. This includes supporting members who are working to achieve law firm partnership or starting their own law firms, by helping build critical networks and business referral sources. Lawyers Club helps new lawyers through its “Early Success Series” of mentorship events and encouraging more seasoned attorneys to mentor and “sponsor” younger women attorneys within their firms, companies or agencies.

“Sponsoring a younger attorney means providing access to power – clients and business pipelines,” Schiavoni said. “It means sharing insight to navigate the relevant power structures and conducting behind-the-scenes advocacy to help her advance professionally.”

Lawyers Club also will continue to provide opportunities for members to take on leadership roles and gain skills transferrable to taking on leadership roles within law firms, public agencies and companies, Schiavoni said.

“Research shows that women are far less likely to pursue powerful leadership positions – to seek appointment to boards and commissions, judgeships or run for elected office,” Schiavoni said. “Yet, I firmly believe that attorneys are uniquely qualified for many of these leadership positions and that having more women in leadership roles is good for organizations, government and the community. Lawyers Club is working to close the leadership gap by de-mystifying the process, encouraging more of our members to opt-in, and providing real world advice and support for those interested in pursuing leadership positions.”

Lawyers Club has hosted, and plans to continue its focus on, programs to educate its members on how to seek appointments to various types of boards and commissions, including nonprofit, governmental and corporate boards; how to run for elected office, including strategic considerations and nuts and bolts elements; and how to seek appointment to judicial office, with practical advice from judges who have been through the process.

Fourteen former Lawyers Club presidents have been appointed or elected to the state and federal bench in San Diego; another, Hon. Lynn Schenk, was the first woman elected to the U.S. Congress from San Diego; and another, Hon. Bonnie Dumanis, is the current San Diego County District Attorney.

For more information about Lawyers Club, please visit [www.lawyersclubsandiego.com](http://www.lawyersclubsandiego.com).

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