



NEWS RELEASE

For further information, contact:

Deborah Dixon, President, (619) 595-0650, ddixon@gomeztrialattorneys.com

Elaine Lawrence, Executive Director, (619) 595-0650, elaine@lawyersclubsandiego.com

Rhianna Maras, Programs & Events Coordinator, (619) 595-0650, rhianna@lawyersclubsandiego.com

Lawyers Club Releases Results of 2015 Equality Survey; Women's Numbers Up Slightly Among Private Law Firms

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An annual equality survey conducted by [Lawyers Club of San Diego](#), a specialty bar association with the mission to advance the status of women in the law and society, shows an increase this year in the number of women attorneys and women partners at private law firms after a dip last year. The public sector continues to lead in gender equality over the private sector, with more women and women of color overall and more women in top-level and leadership positions.

“The Equality Survey creates visibility around the unequal representation of women and minority women in the legal profession,” Lawyers Club president Deborah Dixon said. “It was initially conceived to bring attention to the gender discrimination women encountered in law firms, courtrooms and public agencies – to provide visibility to an otherwise invisible issue. This year’s survey continues our work of raising awareness of the current status of women within private law firms and public agencies, while empowering members of the legal profession to take action against gender inequalities.”

Of the 25 private firms included in the 2015 Equality Survey, women comprise 38 percent of attorneys, an incremental increase over 2014. Women hold 27 percent of firm partnership positions in 2015 – up from 2013 and 2014 – but only 22 percent of equity partner/shareholder positions. Women of color hold a mere 2 percent of partnership and equity partner positions and only 6 percent of attorney positions overall.

Only firms with 10 or more attorneys in San Diego County were included in the survey, and larger law firms generally reported fewer percentages of women attorneys and women equity partners.

Women and attorneys of color were better represented in the public sector than in the private sector, as in past years. Ten public agencies responded to the survey. At these agencies, 55 percent of the total attorneys were women, and 14 percent were women of color. These numbers were down from 2014, with 59 percent women attorneys and 15 percent women of color employed by public agencies. Women hold 56 percent of leadership and management positions in public agencies in 2015, while women of color hold 22 percent of such positions.

The Equality Survey also asked employers about maternity and paternity leave policies and flex-time policies, including telecommuting, modified hours, flexible work location and other types of flexible schedules.

Lawyers Club’s Equality and Action Committee will present the detailed results of the Equality Survey, which

is in its 24th year of documenting the progress of females in the San Diego legal community, at a luncheon on Thursday, Nov. 19, at the U.S. Grant Hotel.

The luncheon also will feature a panel discussion addressing tools to achieving gender equality and the barriers that prevent equality. Speakers include Arlene Prater, managing partner at Best, Best & Krieger LLP's San Diego office, and Summer Stephan, San Diego Chief Deputy District Attorney.

“The Annual Equality Survey is a critical initiative that helps to further Lawyers Club’s mission to advance the status of women in the law and society, here in San Diego. The survey was conducted electronically for the first time, resulting in a higher response rate” said Amanda Allen, a Lawyers Club board member who co-chairs the Equality and Action Committee with fellow board member Frann Setzer. “The speakers featured during the luncheon will add to the story the data tells. Our speakers will share their experience building public agencies and private firms with the goal of generating real change in the legal community,” said Frann Setzer.

The 2015 Equality Survey results will be available online at <http://www.lawyersclubsandiego.com/?page=A9>.

About Lawyers Club of San Diego

Lawyers Club, founded in 1972 with the mission “to advance the status of women in the law and society,” 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 Equality and Action Committee, visit www.lawyersclubsandiego.com.

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