

NEWS RELEASE

FEMINIST BAR ASSOCIATION TO CELEBRATE 40TH ANNIVERSARY

Lawyers Club of San Diego

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For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - May 15, 2012

Lawyers Club of San Diego is celebrating its 40th Anniversary, at a dinner event titled "40 Years of Making Dreams a Reality," on Wednesday, May 16, 2012. This milestone event will highlight the progress Lawyers Club has made in advancing the status of women in the law and in society.

The location of this event, the U.S. Grant, holds special significance in Lawyers Club's history. In 1971, three founding members of Lawyers Club, Hon. Lynn Schenck, Hon. Judith McConnell, and Elaine Alexander, successfully fought to abolish the "Men Only" policy applied by the hotel's Grant Grill during business lunch hours.

Schenk was later elected the first woman to serve San Diego in the U.S. House of Representatives, and was appointed to prestigious state government posts, including Chief of Staff to Governor Gray Davis. Today, Justice McConnell is the Administrative Presiding Justice of the California Court of Appeal, Fourth Appellate District. Both of these outstanding women will be awarded Lawyers Club's prestigious ICON award.

Also being honored by Lawyers Club is University of San Diego School of Law Professor C. Hugh Friedman, a founding member credited with the gender-neutral name Lawyers Club, which conveys that this bar association is open to all who are committed to gender equality. Among many other accomplishments, Friedman is a past-President of the San Diego County Bar Association, the Legal Aid Society of San Diego, and the California State Board of Education.

Center for Community Solutions, a non-profit agency serving those affected by rape, domestic violence, and elder abuse, is being honored as well for its outstanding service to our community.

Lawyers Club was founded in 1972 when there were just 24 practicing women lawyers in San Diego. Since that time, Lawyers Club's membership has grown to approximately 1,000 women and men, and its members have made great strides toward achieving gender equality. For example, numerous members have become judges and past Lawyers Club President, Bonnie Dumanis, was elected San Diego's first female district attorney.

Event speakers will also explain that, despite the incredible progress of Lawyers Club, there is still much work to be done in advancing the status of women in the legal profession. Locally, for example, the number of female partners in San Diego law firms with greater than 15 attorneys has remained stagnant at approximately 20% for the past decade.

Event Details:

US Grant Hotel
326 Broadway
San Diego, CA 92101

Wednesday, May 16, 2012
5:00 pm VIP Reception
5:30 pm Cocktail Reception
6:30 pm Dinner and Program