Human Trafficking Collaborative features Judge Virginia Kendall on the responsibility of corporations in the fight against human trafficking.

See page 13
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President’s Message to Members

Carrying the Torch Towards Gender Equality

By Jamie Quient

At times I find myself frustrated with the slow pace of progress. Lawyers Club has spent the last forty-five years working to advance the status of women in the law and society. And yet, in 2017, we still have a long way to go to achieve true gender equality.

We are still fighting for equal pay and working to eliminate sexual harassment, sexism and bullying in the workplace. We are still fighting to protect our reproductive rights and the health and safety of women in our community and around the world. We are still fighting for access to family planning and good healthcare.

And while the journey ahead can seem daunting and overwhelming, I am emboldened by the courage and strength of those who came before me. When Lawyers Club was founded in 1972, women were excluded from most jobs in the legal profession in San Diego. Only one woman had ever served as a judge in San Diego County, and very few, if any, women had ever represented San Diegans in elected office at any level of government.

Now, women make up a majority of our local state legislative delegation, we have one woman in our local congressional delegation, California is represented by two female United States senators and we just elected our first female, Latina, City Attorney. The federal and state courts throughout our county and state also have a strong female representation.

While we still have a long road ahead, I am constantly inspired by the passion, drive and determination of all those who will carry the movement forward and pass the torch to the next generation of leaders. Within Lawyers Club, our talent pool is deep and with talent, comes responsibility.

Engrained in the fabric of our organization is the duty to cultivate leadership because we recognize that this is how we effectuate positive change most productively. Many of the leaders cultivated within our ranks have gone on to become judges, elected representatives, law firm partners and owners, leaders within government agencies and nonprofit organizations.

I would not be where I am today without all of the leaders who came before me and cultivated my leadership skills and my passion for this cause. I am deeply grateful to those who invested in me, and I will pay it forward by investing in the next generation of Lawyers Club leaders. It has been my great pleasure to serve on the Lawyers Club board and this year as President. Those with whom I have served are some of the finest leaders in San Diego.

Those who follow bring a renewed energy and enthusiasm that will keep our membership invigorated and will propel us forward. The co-chairs of our committees and other leaders devote a tremendous amount of time to developing and executing our high level programing and initiatives, serving our community and advocating for change.

Our staff are the most dedicated and hardworking people I have ever met. They go above and beyond every single day and work tirelessly to support our mission. Elaine Lawrence is a world-class Executive Director and has taken the organization to new heights in the last six years. She also mentors and supports our staff, cultivating them into leaders.

Olga Alvarez, our next President, is one of the warmest and kindest people I know. She epitomizes what this organization stands for. She is passionate about mentorship, leadership, and giving women in the legal profession the tools and support they need to succeed. Under her leadership, we will continue to stand up, speak out, and take action in the fight for gender justice.

As I pass the torch (or in this case, a crystal gavel) to our next President, Olga, at the Annual Dinner, I will do so knowing that the future of women in the legal profession and beyond looks bright.

Jamie Quient practices insurance coverage and intellectual property litigation at Procopio, Cory, Hargreaves & Savitch LLC and is president of Lawyers Club.

New Members

Ms. Cristina Babin
Ms. Janice Brooks-Gary
Ms. Stephanie Caloca
Ms. Milena Celentano
Mr. Michael Cocchi
Mr. Christopher Conti
Ms. Nicole Cropper
Ms. Carissa Dolan
Ms. Lara Easton
Ms. Jill Edwards
Ms. Hallie Fader-Towe
Ms. Marilena Fallaris
Ms. Erin Hiley
Ms. Shonte Hobson
Ms. Carla Hutton
Ms. Pairs Jandrokovic
Mr. Leonid Kandinov
Mrs. Marissa Kavocki
Mrs. Lucy Kelleher
Mrs. Mia Kelly
Mrs. Holli Kucera
Ms. Kristina Leese
Ms. Jenna Macek
Mr. Brody McBride
Ms. Victoria Ramirez
Ms. Andrea Ramos
Ms. Haleh Razzaghi
Ms. Daniela Reali
Ms. Marissa Remiker
Mr. Jaymes Sanford
Mr. Nineth Segura
Mr. Gerald Singleton
Ms. Joy Singleton
Dr. Diana Steel
Mr. Aurelio Velazquez
Hon. Michael Washington
Ms. Alyssa Williams
Ms. Rohanee Zapanta
Honored

Two Lawyers Club members were honored by the San Diego County YWCA with 2017 Tribute to Women & Industry Awards at a benefit luncheon April 25. The TWIN Award winners included Marianne Barth, Of Counsel with Seltzer Caplan McMahon Vitek, and Jennifer Litwak, executive director of Housing on Met, a non-profit organization that works to provide affordable housing opportunities for vulnerable populations.

The San Diego Business Journal will honor Carmen Chavez, executive director of Casa Cornelia Law Center, and Ellen Miller, executive director and CEO of the San Diego County Bar Association, as finalists for the 2017 Most Admired CEOs award June 15 at a reception in Del Mar.

Elected

Several Lawyers Club members were elected as officers of the 2017 board of the San Diego chapter of the Federal Bar Association. Carolina Bravo-Karimi, a senior associate at Wilson Turner Kosmo, was elected president-elect; Morgan Suder, an associate at Wilson Turner Kosmo, was elected vice president for public relations; Assistant U.S. Attorney Alessandra Serano was elected vice president for community outreach; Elizabeth Favret, an associate at Duane Morris, was elected vice president for membership; Assistant U.S. Attorney Michelle Petti was elected secretary; and Assistant U.S. Attorney David Finn was elected treasurer.

On the Speaking Circuit

Parisima Roshanzamir, founder of personal injury firm Roshanzamir Law, spoke at the San Diego Paralegals Association’s annual conference in April about how to discover your client’s story in a personal injury case.

Three Lawyers Club members spoke at the University of San Diego School of Law’s Employment and Labor Law Society Spring Panel on Workplace Bullying and Harassment in March. The speakers included Lawyers Club vice president Susan Swan, of Swan Employment Law; Jerrilyn Malana, Chief Deputy for Employment/Special Advisor at the San Diego County District Attorney’s Office; and Carolina Bravo-Karimi, senior associate at Wilson Turner Kosmo LLP. Swan and Kristin Rizzo, of Rizzo Law PC, also spoke on a panel titled “My Favorite Mistake – Perspectives from the Plaintiff’s Bar” at employment defense firm Ogletree Deakins’ Workplace Strategies Conference in San Diego in May.

Jodi Cleesattle is a deputy attorney general with the California Department of Justice and Lawyers Club’s Press Liaison.

HAVE YOU...

...changed jobs? ...won any recent awards? ...spoken at a professional conference?

Don’t be shy about sharing your good news. Submit news of your own, or of your colleagues’ career accomplishments – awards, promotions, job changes, board appointments, published articles, presentations, etc. to Jodi Cleesattle at jcleesattle@gmail.com. The deadline for each issue of Lawyers Club News is the first of the month prior to the month of publication.
30 Years Ago in Lawyers Club News

By George W. Brewster Jr.

The featured story of the first page of the June 1987 Lawyers Club News centers on then Superior Court Judge Patricia Benke and her recent nomination by Gov. George Deukmejian to the Fourth District Court of Appeal. She was to be the only woman, and its youngest member, then on the Court. As we now know, Justice Benke remains on the Fourth District Court to this day, and is well known not only for her judicial role but also as a best-selling author. Her latest book, “Queen the Magnificent” is a collection of short stories told in the first person by young women who, like Benke, come from Syrian immigrant families.

Judge Benke received her JD from University of San Diego and was a Deputy Attorney General for the State of California from 1974 to 1983, primarily working with criminal appeals. She was appointed to the Municipal Court in 1983 and to the Superior Court in 1985. In 1987, she was the only female considered by the Governor for appointment to the California Supreme Court. Given her quick rise in the judiciary, it is not surprising that she served as the featured speaker at Lawyers Club’s third annual Awards Dinner held June 18, 1987 at the Admiral Kidd Club. The cost of the dinner was $19.50!

Her comment in the newsletter (borrowing from a Daily Transcript interview) is as apt today as it was then: “I consider myself an active questioner. That, in the appeal court, is where you hammer out what the issue is. My advice to attorneys is to get to the point of the issue in the first sentence. There’s too much paper preceding the meat of the argument.”

June was a transitional month; saying farewell to 1986-87 Lawyers Club president Tina Dyer, installing the 1987-88 Lawyers Club Board and welcoming the next Lawyers Club president, Helen Rowe. Rowe was well known within the legal community in large part because of her adventurous spirit, her extensive involvement in community affairs, and her sense of humor; later she created a regular gossipy and newsy column in the Bar’s monthly magazine (Dicta) called “Looking Glass—One Lawyer’s View of Matters that Matter.” For many years she would host an annual holiday party at her home for the volunteers who put Dicta together month after month.

This June 1987 issue of Lawyers Club News ran a short interview with Rowe, wherein she noted that her parents were “dedicated activists.” She became a lawyer “for the most practical of reasons… I got tired of having sand kicked in my face. My perception of the law and lawyering was that it was a fast track to making a difference, and it didn’t have an age bias (I was 40 when I began practice)…that’s still my view.”

Rowe believed that Lawyers Club “has been on the front lines in identifying the issues that break against women in our profession… identifying the attitudes, the practices, the tactics that keep women on the outside looking in… In my opinion, our present strength is the result of the energy, wit, will, and wisdom of our Lawyers Club founders. They showed us the way, and we who came to Lawyers Club later had the abundant good sense to follow it!”

George W. Brewster Jr. is a Chief Deputy with the Office of County Counsel and a member of the History and Archives Committee.
Lawyers Club rallies for equal pay for women

By Jodi Cleesattle

Approximately 50 people turned out for Lawyers Club’s Equal Pay Day Rally on April 4, gathering in front of the federal courthouse downtown to express support for equal wages for men and women performing the same work. Many wore red Lawyers Club t-shirts with a “Close the Gap” logo as they listened to leaders in government, business and the non-profit community.

The rally, organized by Lawyers Club’s Women’s Advocacy Committee, was held on Equal Pay Day, the day that symbolizes how far into the year women must work to earn what men earned in the previous year.

“Although federal laws mandating equal pay have been on the books for over 50 years, women still only make 79 cents on the dollar,” said Megan Walker, co-chair of the Women’s Advocacy Committee. “A recent report by the Center on Policy Initiatives [CPI] found that the pay gap in San Diego is worse than California overall, with women making 74 cents on the dollar compared to men.”

Walker added that the wage gap is even greater for African-American and Latina women. African-American women earn 50 cents for every dollar earned by white men, and Latina women earn as little as 37 to 52 cents on the dollar, she said.

Claudia Huerta, legislative and political engagement manager at Planned Parenthood of the Pacific Southwest, said the pay gap for black and Latina women adds up to huge pay losses over time.

“Wage disparity affects women of color the most,” she said. “Over the course of a year, the average black woman earns $12,000 less than the average white man. That’s over a $420,000 gap over the course of a lifetime. The lifetime gap between a typical white male versus a typical Latina worker is over half a million dollars. This is simply unacceptable. It’s bad for the economy, bad for women, and bad for families.”

Lawyers Club president Jamie Quient said the pay gap exists in law firms, too — with a recent survey finding a 44 percent pay gap between male and female partners at law firms. Quient said the pay gap persists across professions because women are more likely than men to work in lower paying jobs and because women are more likely than men to leave the work force or work less hours due to family responsibilities.

“That is why Lawyers Club worked with CPI to support the … minimum wage increase in the city of San Diego,” Quient said, noting that the minimum wage increase will affect 30 percent of working women in San Diego. “Lawyers Club is helping to develop policies that support working women and families such as paid family leave and affordable childcare.”

San Diego City Council member Chris Ward spoke at the rally, and provided an update on the status of the San Diego Equal Pay Ordinance he introduced in February. The ordinance would require businesses seeking city contracts to demonstrate that they provide equal wages for equal work, regardless of gender or ethnicity, and is intended to complement and ensure compliance with California’s Fair Pay Act. The ordinance received its first hearing at a City Council Rules Committee meeting April 5. The committee voted to direct Ward’s Council District Three office to continue working with the offices of the city attorney, mayor, independent budget analyst, and appropriate city departments to prepare the ordinance for a vote by City Council.

“We know the city has the financial clout to set the standard for the region in a way that empowers all working people without creating any additional burden for businesses,” Ward said. “This is an opportunity for our city to send a clear message about our expectations for those doing business with us, and to give businesses and those working in San Diego a clear standard to work with.”

San Diego City Council member Barbara Bry said she supports the Equal Pay Ordinance and will work to see it passed. Bry, who had a long career as a business entrepreneur before being elected to City Council in November, told the rally crowd she had personal experience with the gender wage gap.

“Unequal pay is something that I have experienced throughout my own career,” Bry said. “For years, I made less money for the same work as my male counterparts.”

Bry, who founded Run Women Run in 2008, an organization that encourages women to run for public office, said women have put up with pay inequality for too long.

“Women have seen significant progress in the workplace since the 1960s, but the same issues persist now in 2017, and we cannot continue to accept less than what we deserve,” Bry said. “We need more women at the decision-making table because equal representation helps to advance equal pay.”

Bill Sailer, member of the Lawyers Club of San Diego and Association of Corporate Counsel Joint Task Force on Gender Equality and senior vice president and legal counsel for Qualcomm, said pay equity is a civil rights issue, but also an issue that makes good business sense.

“One of the concerns people have is that pay equity is a zero-sum game,” he said. “It’s not. Ensuring you have a diverse workforce actually increases the pie. … We all have to look for opportunities to make our professions more inclusive and to pay people fairly.”

Women’s Advocacy Committee co-chair Rebecca Zipp, accompanied by her two young sons, urged the crowd to keep working for pay equality.

“Law, policy, and culture matter,” Zipp said. “You are all now armed with the facts to change hearts and minds and to impact change.”

Jodi Cleesattle is a deputy attorney general with the California Department of Justice and Lawyers Club’s Press Liaison.
Think like a CEO: Building a personal board of directors

By Kathy Konzen

Lawyers Club’s June luncheon will feature Teigue Thomas, Chief Legal Officer for Vistage International, as the keynote speaker for the Sixth Annual General Counsel Roundtable, on Thursday, June 15 at the US Grant Hotel. This luncheon will be an interactive event in which every attendee will have the opportunity to engage in roundtable discussions with more than ten prominent attorneys from local corporate legal departments.

As Chief Legal Officer for Vistage International, Thomas is responsible for the company’s worldwide legal operations and compliance. As an in-house attorney for over 20 years, Thomas has worked in companies of all sizes, from start-ups to multi-billion dollar enterprises with global operations. Prior to joining Vistage, Thomas was vice president, general counsel, and corporate secretary with Acer America Corp., one of the world's largest computer companies. Prior to Acer, Thomas served as vice president and general counsel at Gateway, Inc. She also has trial experience from her tenure as senior counsel at Zurich Financial Services, where she was lead trial counsel in both state and federal litigation matters. Thomas is also the co-founder of a company called YourKidVid.com, which provides editing services for video captured on cell phones or other devices.

Thomas is an experienced leader of the Association of Corporate Counsel. She currently serves on the Global Board of Directors of the ACC and has served as a past president of ACC’s San Diego and Southern California Chapters. She is a frequent speaker at local and national conferences, and Lawyers Club is fortunate to have her headline this event.

Thomas will discuss the process of building a personal board of directors and the roles of mentorship and leadership in developing a career as an attorney. She will also share insider tips for working with inside counsel and how to handle the attorney-client relationship. Following her keynote presentation, prominent in house counsel and attendees will continue the discussion at their tables.

Lawyers Club’s Professional Advancement Committee is organizing this luncheon. For more information, contact luncheon coordinators Amanda Fitzsimmons (Amanda.fitzsimmons@dlapiper.com) or Stephanie Reynolds (Reynolds@popeberger.com), or Professional Advancement Committee co-chairs, Shanly Hopkins (shanly.hopkins@gmail.com) or Arlene Yang (yang@brownlawgroup.com).

Kathy Konzen is the owner of Konzen Law, APC and a member of the Professional Advancement Committee.

What? When? Where?

What: General Counsel Roundtable Luncheon
When: Thursday, June 15, 12:00 p.m. to 1:15 p.m.
Where: The U.S. Grant Hotel, 326 Broadway, San Diego
Cost: Members, $30; Non-members, $45; Student Members, $20
Register: www.lawyersclubsandiego.com
Sponsor: Franklin|Soto LLP
Community Outreach Committee gets outside with Girl Scouts nature center

By Lillian M. Loeffler

After 16 months of brainstorming and planning, Lawyers Club’s Community Outreach Committee (COC) successfully conducted this year’s hands-on project benefitting the Girl Scouts of San Diego. A weekend in the midst of the Cuyamaca Mountains, just outside the quaint town of Julian, was well spent by volunteers who dedicated their time and efforts to make the Girl Scouts’ dream a reality.

Katie Shank, Mariza Lockhart and Merrianne Dean work with Ranger Dave to dig a post base.

Anna Romanskya & Catherine Asuncion securing fencing posts.

Weekend finished, Sunday Afternoon celebration. Back Row: Merrianne Dean; Kate Langmore; Susanne de la Flor; Sahar Abunadi; Jylan Megahed; David Loeffler; (Middle Row) Ranger Dave (girl scouts); Jim McFaul; Elaine Harwell; Lillian Loeffler; (Front Row) Roxy Carter; Mikhak Gorban and her daughter Klara.

Chandra Moore learns to use a power saw with Ranger Dave’s guidance.

Kris Nesthus and Catherine Asuncion securing posts.
COC spent the weekend outdoors at Camp Winacka redesigning the camp’s nature center. The project supports a program designed to educate Girl Scouts on tending to regional native plants, harvesting crops and vegetables, making compost and exploring nature with hands-on science based learning. For the girls who spend the weekend at the overnight camp with their peers, this project will add another experience in taking facilitated risks and exploring the outdoors.

On Saturday, the volunteers immediately began the “dirty” work of grading and leveling dirt. Then, the volunteers turned to cutting and driving-in posts and taking down existing fencing so that new support beams, planters, and fencing could be erected. Several volunteers stayed on the campgrounds overnight. The team of volunteers bonded during a night out on the town, which included an elegant dinner and s’mores for dessert over a self-made bonfire. Co-leader Elaine Harwell described the overnight experience by saying, “It was a joy to build fires and make s’mores. I gained good, new friendships this weekend over sweat, dirt, and mice!” Yes, mice! On Sunday morning, the overnight campers had the opportunity to get some fishing in before the work day began. The Sunday workgroup continued running the support beams and securing the fencing.

The project, co-led by Elaine Harwell and Roxy Carter, allowed many volunteers to learn new skills such as measuring, handling power tools and light carpentry. Having well-experienced and long-time COC volunteer Merrianne Dean present allowed the project to run smoothly and efficiently. She exclaims, “I had a wonderful time working with everybody. It was great to see some volunteers develop new skills that can be applied with home improvements or other Lawyers Club projects. We will definitely be tagging everyone who participated here for the next one!”

COC member Mikhak Ghorban and her daughter joined the weekend fun. Ghorban stated, “I am vested in this project because, besides being a Lawyers Club member, I have a Girl Scout at home. I know how important it is to the Girl Scouts to have a place for them to learn.” Ultimately, this year’s project ensures young girls have the opportunity to explore, learn and develop tangible skills that can advance their status in society as they grow.

Lillian M. Loeffler is an associate at Slovinsky & Slovinsky and a member of the Community Outreach Committee.
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Take Your Child to Work Day: Sheriff Woody found not guilty

By Kristina Lese

Over twenty children and their parents participated in Lawyers Club’s annual Take Your Child to Work Day Mock Trial at the Hall of Justice on Thursday, April 27. The day’s program also included presentations from the San Diego Bomb Squad and the San Diego Sheriff’s Search and Rescue K-9 Team.

This year’s mock trial was based off the hit Pixar film, Toy Story. Children of all ages played the roles of judge, prosecutor, defense attorney, accused (Sheriff Woody), victim (Buzz Lightyear), witnesses (Soldier, Mr. Potato Head, and Bo Peep), and jurors. The trial of Sheriff Woody, charged with one count of assault against Buzz Lightyear, was overseen by Judges Joan P. Weber and Sharon L. Kalemkiarian. Lawyers Club member Stephanie Caloca observed, “The kids showed enthusiasm and fantastic analytical skills.”

After closing arguments, the twelve young jurors were provided with instructions under California Penal Code section 245. After a lengthy deliberation, the jury unanimously found Sheriff Woody not guilty of assault for pushing Buzz Lightyear out of Andy’s bedroom window. Jordyn Eck, who played the role of District Attorney, enjoyed preparing for the mock trial and expressed a desire to pursue both acting and law careers. “Knowing your purpose, objective, and relation with other characters was important to prepare for the mock trial,” said Jordyn.

Following the verdict, Judges Weber and Kalemkiarian explained the roles and duties of attorneys, judges, and courtroom staff, and answered an array of questions, including how they decided to become judges, how long they had been judges, and whether they liked being judges. Judge Weber recounted the process of becoming a judge, while Judge Kalemkiarian described the similarities and differences between juvenile and criminal courts. The courtroom deputy demonstrated his tools and equipment, such as his pepper spray, handcuffs, and baton, and explained his role in ensuring the safety of all persons in the courtroom. The court reporter talked about the importance of keeping an accurate record of court proceedings and how he accomplished that task. Presiding Judge Jeffrey Barton also appeared and discussed his role, likening it to being the principal of a school - except that he did not punish the judges, which prompted laughter from attendees.

The event concluded with presentations from the San Diego Bomb Squad and the San Diego Sheriff’s Search and Rescue K-9 Team. Attendees learned about bomb squad procedures and how robotic devices are used when responding to possible bomb threats. Attendees were also introduced to “Wishbone,” a search and rescue Beagle from the San Diego Sheriff’s Search and Rescue K-9 Team, who has helped find several lost persons in the county. Attendees also learned about the training process for search and rescue dogs, and that the dogs typically live with their trainers throughout their lives, even when they have retired from service.

The children were excited to receive gavel pencils, search and rescue bracelets, and “Wishbone” trading cards following the presentations. Mr. Potato Head, as played by Alex Pfister, found the bomb squad presentation to be most interesting, while Soldier, played by Nick Pfister, expressed that Wishbone was his favorite part of the day. Both children practiced their testimonies and enjoyed testifying in the mock trial, though Nick declared “I want to be a soldier in real life when I grow up.”

Kristina Lese is an associate attorney for Singleton & Adler: Butte Fire Lawyers, and is a member of the Women’s Advocacy, Community Outreach, and Work-Life Balance Committees.
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Your Path to Resolution
Human Trafficking Collaborative features Judge Virginia Kendall on the responsibility of corporations in the fight against human trafficking

By Kim Berry Jones

Judge Virginia Kendall, an internationally renowned expert on human trafficking and a federal judge in the United States District Court Northern District of Illinois, challenged attendees at a Human Trafficking Collaborative presentation to consider human trafficking a human rights violation. The April 5 presentation, moderated by Judge M. Margaret McKeown, Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, focused on the increasing responsibility of corporations and the community in the fight against human trafficking.

Attendees filled nearly every open chair in the U.S. District Court Jury Room, and listened eagerly as Judge McKeown conversed with Judge Kendall about her efforts, both in the United States and around the world, to train and empower judges and practitioners to understand and enforce human trafficking laws.

“Prostitution is just one component of a bigger picture,” said Judge Kendall. “Human trafficking is a violation of the human dignity, and the Internet has allowed offenders to organize and normalize the selling of sex.”

Citing a variety of cases as well as her own experience working internationally, Judge Kendall shared her observation that law enforcement has had a difficult time keeping up with the sophistication of offenders online. However, she stressed that online activity is often at the foundation of evidence that is brought against traffickers in court.

As part of her international efforts, Judge Kendall has provided rule of law training to judges and prosecutors in Egypt, where the legal community faces the particular challenge of prosecuting cases involving top-level leaders and members of the royal family who support the practice of “summer brides.” This practice entails parents selling their daughters as a summer nanny, often justifying it with the hope that it will lead to a better life for their child. The perpetrator marries and then divorces the child bride after the summer, providing a small sum to the family.

Her international work is often in response to the “Trafficking in Persons Report,” which is released annually by the State Department. “The Trafficking in Persons Report ranks countries in terms of exploitation,” said Judge Kendall. “It requires countries to self-report how they are handling prosecution, prevention and protection and features improvements.”

The report ranks countries at levels from “Tier One,” countries that recognize and are actively working to prevent human trafficking, “Tier Two,” countries that are monitoring and documenting human trafficking but not doing enough to combat it, to “Tier Three,” countries that do not acknowledge and are not working to combat human trafficking.

“The goal of most countries is to stay in the ‘Green’ or ‘Tier One’ designation because this impacts trade,” said Judge Kendall, and “this often triggers corporate supply train laws.” According to Judge Kendall, there have been under 10,000 prosecutions or criminal convictions for human trafficking cases worldwide.

In the United States, corporations are now starting to take notice of human trafficking violations because of transparency and supply chain laws. These laws seek to protect people from being exploited for labor in producing products that are sold in the United States. “President Obama’s 2012 Presidential Order mandated that companies with federal contracts must police their supply chains and can be barred from federal contracts,” said Judge Kendall.

“The question now is who will take on the job of enforcing,” said Judge Kendall.

Several states have enacted supply chain laws, but there is limited enforcement ability at this time. Instead, class action law suites have successfully pursued violations of supply chain mandates and caused corporations to pay more attention to the issue.

Judge Kendall’s book Child Exploitation and Trafficking: Examining the Global Challenges and the U.S. Responses is a treatise for judges and practitioners to better understand the law. She was appointed to the federal bench in 2006 and teaches at University of Chicago Law School, Northwestern University School of Law and Loyola University Chicago School of Law. Prior to her judicial appointment, she served as a federal prosecutor. Judge Kendall created a human trafficking training module for judges and task forces that has been widely implemented.

Kim Berry Jones is Program Director at the Center for Justice & Reconciliation at Point Loma Nazarene University, and a member of the Human Trafficking Collaborative Legal and Community Education Subcommittee.
Lawyers Club members honored at SDCBA’s Law Week Awards Luncheon

By Cheryl Dunn Soto

Civil discourse, community service, mentorship, gratitude; these were a few of the themes and emotions that resonated throughout the San Diego County Bar Association’s (“SDCBA”) annual Law Week Awards Luncheon and Celebration of Community Service on May 1st. Once again held at the Westin San Diego, hundreds of judges and attorneys celebrated Lawyers Club members and other attorneys who have gone the extra mile for the San Diego community. Lawyers Club was well-represented among the recipients, with four of the seven individual recipients being Lawyers Club members.

Lawyers Club member Cynthia Morgan-Reed, of Morgan Reed Law, was recognized with the Community Service Award for her leadership efforts in connection with, among other things, Run Women Run, Voice of San Diego and Civic San Diego. Morgan-Reed explained that the greatest gift you can give is the gift of your time. She stressed the importance of creating a community in connection with your service, explaining how she strives to make the volunteers she works with and the people she helps feel loved and supported.

Lawyers Club member Anne Perry, an Assistant United States Attorney, received the Service by a Public Attorney Award for her tireless efforts to teach, nurture, and train countless lawyers and future lawyers. In particular, Perry was applauded for her efforts over several years to facilitate the District Court’s adoption of General Order 644, which allows law students interning for federal agencies to advocate in court on the agencies’ behalf. Perry stressed the importance of “paying it forward” and explained how the students she mentors continually inspire her. She also reminded the audience that, when it comes to public service, it is important that you enjoy what you are doing. According to Perry, “it was wonderful to receive the award, particularly in light of the fact that the student project would never have come to fruition without the support of Chief Judge Moskowitz,” who was also among those honored at the event.

The service awards program in fact began with a standing ovation for the Honorable Barry Ted Moskowitz, Chief District Judge of the Southern District of California, who received the Outstanding Jurist Award. Judge Moskowitz was introduced by District Court Judge Jeffrey T. Miller, who praised Judge Moskowitz’s “keen intellect and legendary work ethic.” Judge Miller highlighted Judge Moskowitz’s tireless efforts to obtain approval of a child-care facility in the federal courthouse and create the first ever nursing mother’s room, an accomplishment which prompted a hearty cheer from the audience.

Lawyers Club member Stacie Patterson received the Service to the Legal Community Award for her efforts on behalf of the San Diego Diversity Fellowship Program, the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association, Lawyers Club of San Diego and the STEPPS Program at California Western School of Law. Patterson emphasized the importance of listening with compassion and empathy, and, like Perry, she is continually inspired by the students she mentors.

Lawyers Club member and Cozen O’Connor attorney Peter Lynch, a veteran who served in Iraq and Afghanistan, received the Service to Diversity Award. Lynch is active in the SDCBA Ethnic Relations and Diversity committee and founded the SDCBA Disability Interest Group. Lynch explained that “we have left the disabled behind” in the legal profession and stressed the importance of performing small, selfless acts that may not necessarily be recognized but that make a differences in others’ lives.

In addition to the individual Lawyers Club members who received awards, a Lawyers Club 2016 Fund for Justice grantee – Survivors of Torture – was honored with the Distinguished Organization Award. Other award winners included Edward McIntyre (Outstanding Attorney of the Year Award) and Rafael Hurtado (Outstanding Service by a New Lawyer Award). In addition, the SDCBA recognized elementary, junior high, and high school students for their outstanding posters and videos addressing the theme of civil discourse and respectful conversation.

The continued success of Lawyers Club members in receiving recognition from the SDCBA is a testament to the quality, talent and diversity of Lawyers Club’s members, and also to the hard work of the Lawyers Club Awards Committee. Co-chairs Rebecca Kanter and Cheryl Dunn Soto were especially grateful to Awards Committee members Amanda Allen and Johanna Schiavoni for their tremendous contributions to this year’s nominations.

Cheryl Dunn Soto is an attorney at Franklin Soto LLP and co-chairs the Awards Committee with Lawyers Club Board Member Rebecca Kanter.
Meet Olga Álvarez – Lawyers Club’s Incoming President

By Maggie Schroedter

Olga Álvarez, the current vice president of Finance and Fundraising and chair of the Sponsorship Committee for Lawyers Club, will officially begin her 2017-2018 term as president of Lawyers Club on July 1.

Álvarez has been a member of Lawyers Club for over 14 years. She explains, “I attribute my professional success and ability to navigate my career and my family to Lawyers Club. I couldn’t have done it without its support.” Álvarez is honored to lead an organization that has given her so much and relishes the opportunity to give back and ensure that the women who follow will have more opportunities to obtain success. She believes “the ultimate goal is equality for all” and “until we get there, we must identify the obstacles that cause female lawyers to leave the practice, and we must create avenues to overcome those obstacles.”

Álvarez is co-owner and co-founder of Heisner Álvarez, APC in La Jolla. She is a Certified Specialist in Estate Planning, Trust & Probate Law by the State Bar of California Board of Legal Specialization and is rated AV Preeminent by Martindale Hubbell™. Her practice focuses on preserving and protecting assets for all clients, including both high net worth individuals and middle-income families. She litigates both trust and probate disputes, and administers complex trusts. Álvarez is a 2017 Top 50 Super Lawyer for San Diego and a 2017 Top Lawyer for San Diego Magazine. She has been named as one of the top ten attorneys in Trusts & Estates by the San Diego Daily Transcript as well as one of the top 25 attorneys in San Diego by San Diego Metro Magazine. Álvarez teaches at the University of San Diego School of Law as an adjunct professor in the Civil Practicum course. She has received the SDCBA Service to Diversity Award and the “Women Who Mean Business” Award from the San Diego Business Journal. She has been recognized as a finalist for SD Magazine’s Woman of the Year Award, named Best of the Bar by the San Diego Business Journal for four consecutive years, and has served as a member of the Board of Directors for the San Diego La Raza Lawyers Association Scholarship Fund and the Reuben H. Fleet Science Center in Balboa Park. Álvarez also serves as the volunteer coordinator for her children’s school fall festival.

Alvarez initially began her legal career in immigration and then embraced the opportunity to expand her legal practice to business litigation, and trust and estates. Shortly after, she joined a small boutique trust and estates firm in Carmel Valley before moving to Sullivan Hill Lewin Rez & Engel. She says, “As a mother of twins, I have been fortunate to have had employers that have understood flexible time and the importance of reduced schedules, especially when my children were young. But, it was Lawyers Club that supported me in approaching my employers.”

Álvarez’s initial involvement in Lawyers Club began with the Work-Life Balance Committee where she served as a coordinator in Carmel Valley for two years. She later joined the Equality and Action Committee and the Diverse Women’s Committee where she eventually served as co-chair. In 2014, Álvarez was elected to serve on the Lawyers Club Board of Directors. During her tenure on the board, she co-chaired the Diverse Women’s Committee, the Membership Development Committee and served as an active member of the Bylaws and Policy Committee.

Álvarez received her undergraduate degree in biology from the University of Texas at Austin. She obtained a masters degree from the LBJ School of Public Affairs before attending the University of San Diego School of Law, where she was inducted to the Order of the Barrister.

When asked about the upcoming year, Álvarez replied, “I am very excited to work with the wonderful leaders and members within Lawyers Club who engage our membership and focus on solutions that help women advance in the law and in society. I am also humbled by the extraordinary leadership of all the prior presidents and leadership. I hope to continue to build upon their legacy, hard work, and path to equality for women.”

Maggie Schroedter is an attorney at Higgs Fletcher & Mack, LLP and the editor of Lawyers Club News.
Member Profile: Gena B. Burns
By Alephia Baxamusa

Gena Burns is an attorney at McDougal Love Boehmer, a municipal law and local government specialist firm that focuses in the practice of public agency law representing various cities, districts, and other local agencies throughout San Diego and Imperial Counties.

Burns studied law at UC Hastings and graduated in 2010, after which she worked in the Irvine office of Troutman Sanders and practiced litigation for nearly three years. She says, however: “I missed San Diego a lot and also wanted to focus on labor and employment, so I moved to a small firm in San Diego.” After moving to San Diego, she was encouraged to join Lawyers Club by other female attorneys and has served on the Balance committee in addition to serving on the Golf Tournament Committee this year.

Burns is a labor and employment associate at McDougal Love, where she focused her practice on municipal law. Speaking highly of her firm, Burns noted “There are twelve attorneys at the firm, and it’s a great group of people to work for and with,” Burns said, speaking highly of her firm.

On a personal note, Burns’s favorite writers are Jon Krakauer and Liane Moriarty. Burns enjoys doing pilates, spending time with her husband and pets, and visiting the Colorado River during summer months. She values loyalty and humor in friends, dreams of becoming a talented Broadway singer, and moving into the woods with 100 dogs!

Alephia Baxamasa received her Master of Laws degree (LL.M) in Comparative Law from the University of San Diego in 2013. She currently works as a Graduate Legal Assistant for the University of San Diego School of Law.

Committee Profile: Golf Committee & upcoming Annual Golf Tournament
By Kate Langmore

Lawyers Club’s Golf Committee organizes the Annual Golf Tournament, which helps support Lawyers Club and its charitable arm, the Fund for Justice (FFJ). FFJ, established in 1997, provides grants to charitable organizations that serve at-risk women and girls.

This year’s event, which will be held on Friday, June 23, at the serene Riverwalk golf course with Champion Title Sponsor Altep. This year marks the 25th anniversary of the tournament and is expected to draw more than 144 participants. Golfers will enjoy the challenge of navigating wetland areas, four lakes and the San Diego River, all framed by picturesque palm, oak and eucalyptus trees. Check-in starts at 11:30 a.m., lunch is served at 12:00 p.m., and the shotgun start is set for 1:00 p.m.

Since 2013, Lawyers Club has organized clinics to help increase participation in golf among female lawyers. This year, the Golf Tournament Committee continued to encourage member participation in the tournament by holding clinics with PGA Professional Jason Peterie at Tecolote Canyon Golf Course.

Single tickets to play in the June 23 tournament start at $145 (before June 8) or $165 after. Foursome tickets are $580 before June 8 or $660 after. Even those who do not play in the tournament can join the reception afterward, as well as the dinner from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. for $40 (members) and $55 (non-members). Registration is now open; contact Mark Hicks, Administrative Coordinator, at mary@lawyersclubsandiego.com or 619-595-0650.

Participants will take home swag bags with treats such as golf balls and tees, and all attendees will have the chance to enter a drawing for prizes including tickets to local sporting events and a private wine tasting by Gen 7 Wines.

Kate Langmore is an associate at Cage & Miles, LLP; member profile coordinator for Lawyers Club News, and a member of the Community Outreach Committee and Golf Committee.

What? When? Where?

What: Lawyers Club Golf Tournament
When: June 23, 2017
Where: Riverwalk Golf Course, 1150 Fashion Valley Road, San Diego, CA 92108
Inquiries: Please contact Roxy Carter (roxyjesselyn@gmail.com) or Renie Leakakos (Renie@leakakoslaw.com).
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Lawyers Club 2017 Annual Dinner
5:00 p.m. Registration
6:30 p.m. Program Begins
Marriott Marquis
San Diego Marina
333 W. Harbor Drive
San Diego, CA 92101

Monday, 6/5/17
Protecting Your Practice:
Now and in the Future
12:10 – 1:10 p.m.
Hera Hub
5205 Avenida Encinas, Suite A
Carlsbad, CA 92008

Thursday, 6/15/17
Lawyers Club Monthly Luncheon:
General Counsel Roundtable
12:00 – 1:15 p.m.
US Grant, 326 Broadway
San Diego, CA 92101

Friday, 6/23/17
Golf Tournament
11:30 a.m. Check-In, Shotgun Start 1:00 p.m.
Riverwalk Golf Club
1150 Fashion Valley Road
San Diego, CA 92108

July 2017

Thursday, 7/20/2017
Lawyers Club Monthly Luncheon:
Leadership
12:00 – 1:15 p.m.
US Grant, 326 Broadway,
San Diego, CA 92101

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Enjoy access to our Career Center, created to promote the hiring of Lawyers Club members.

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