2015: A FEW HIGHLIGHTS

Check out all of the things that happened at the SDCBA this past year!
Looking forward to all that’s ahead in the next.

- **PAVED TWO PATHS FOR EMERGING ATTORNEYS**
- **ALL SDCBA SECTIONS FREE TO JOIN IN 2015**
- **AMBASSADORS INTRODUCED TO HELP INTEGRATE NEW ATTORNEYS INTO THE BAR**
- **HONORED OUR BENCH AND WELCOMED 7 NEW JUDGES TO OUR COMMUNITY at the SDCBA’s Annual Judicial Reception**
- **BAR BOOK CLUB READ 3,337 PAGES**

- **400+ LUNCHES SERVED TO SENIORS**
  - During Bench-Bar Serving Seniors Lunch programs

- **SDCBA CREEK TO BAY CLEAN-UP**
  - Members were among 5,700 volunteers who removed 125,000 pounds of trash

- **HIGH SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL PROGRAM**
  - 437 students and 426 attorney volunteers participated

- **#PROINPRACTICE**
  - 20+ STORIES OF PROFESSIONALISM
  - Professionals continue to share stories of extreme civility in our community

- **260 LAW WEEK POSTERS & ESSAYS SUBMITTED**
  - Submissions for the contest came from 21 schools all over San Diego County

- **CELEBRATED SERVICE AT LAW WEEK LUNCHEON**
  - Attendees celebrated 11 award recipients for their service to San Diego

- **COURT FUNDING ACTION COMMITTEE EMPHASIZES RESTORATION OF COURT SERVICES**

- **EXPLORED IMPLICATIONS OF SOCIAL MEDIA IN THE LAW AT ANNUAL BENCH-BAR MEDIA EVENT**

- **CREATED NEW JUVENILE LAW SECTION**

- **INAUGURAL SUMMER SOCIAL!**
  - Over 100 SDCBA members attended

- **NATIONAL SPEAKER AT DIALOGUE ON DIVERSITY**
  - Vernä Myers engaged with the SDCBA audience

- **BAR WINS 9 NATIONAL & LOCAL AWARDS!**

- **HELLO LAW STUDENTS!**
  - Over 57 representatives from SDCBA Sections, Committees & Law Related Organizations attended the Law Student Welcome Reception

- **AMICUS BRIEF FILED IN ARDON V. CITY OF LOS ANGELES**

- **6TH ANNUAL BENCH BAR LUNCHEON**
  - Nearly 150 attorneys enjoyed lunch with 50 judges

### 2015 by the numbers

- **1,784 New Members**
- **over 4,200 Members attended SDCBA events**
- **over 5,600 Members visited the SDCBA member lounge**
- **nearly 26,000 Referrals provided by the Lawyer Referral & Information Service**
2015 HIGHLIGHTS:

In its 116th year, the San Diego County Bar Association (SDCBA) furthered its commitment to remaining relevant and meaningful to attorneys and legal professionals in San Diego County as the profession continuously evolves, while also working to fulfill the organization’s mission. 2015 marked a year of new practices and programs for the SDCBA, continued innovations, and new and renewed member engagement, connection, and community.

In a revolutionary move for a membership organization, the SDCBA eliminated all section dues in 2015 to encourage members to find and connect with their own community within the greater Association without a financial barrier. This change increased member participation in sections by nearly 38 percent, with nearly all members of the SDCBA’s attorney members belonging to at least one section. Additionally, the SDCBA created a new Juvenile Law Section to convene attorneys who practice in the area to address matters that impact children, youth and families.

Newer lawyers – those within their first 4 full years of practice – were integrated into the Association via two symbiotic paths. Dubbed “emerging” lawyers, attorneys new to the profession were invited to connect with the SDCBA through a newly established interest group, the Forum for Emerging Lawyers (the Forum), and concurrently through the SDCBA’s
sections and special interest committees. Sections and committees were restructured in order to more fully integrate newer attorneys, with lawyers encouraged to take on leadership roles regardless of their level of experience. A board-level committee, the Council on the Integration of Emerging Lawyers (CIEL) was developed and constituted to oversee all programming and initiatives for newer attorneys, and the e-newsletter For the Record was expanded to ensure that new attorneys are apprised of events of interest across the Association.

In 2015, the SDCBA also introduced its new “Ambassadors” program – another initiative designed to help new attorneys find their “home” within their professional association. These Ambassadors, or long-standing SDCBA members with knowledge and experience within the practice and the community, were selected and delineated at all major SDCBA events. The Ambassadors were charged with talking to emerging lawyers and helping them to connect to other members, and emerging lawyers were invited to approach the easily-identifiable Ambassadors as well.

The Bar Center at 401 continued to serve as the physical hub of San Diego's legal community, with over 5,600 members spending time in the SDCBA's member lounge and over 4,200 attending SDCBA events. Members took advantage of all of the SDCBA's service offerings at the Bar Center at 401, with a full house nearly every day in the member lounge and consistent bookings for conference rooms.

In September of 2015, the SDCBA filed an amicus brief in support of the City of Los Angeles in a case that examines the duties of an attorney who inadvertently received confidential information. The case, Ardon v. City of Los Angeles, centers on the city's request that a plaintiff's attorney in a class action challenging a telephone user's tax return privileged documents they received in response to a public records request. In the 46-page brief the SDCBA urged the court to rely on and reaffirm the ethical standards governing the conduct of lawyers who accidentally receive confidential or privileged documents established in two prior cases: the 2007 Rico v. Mitsubishi Motors Corp. case and the 1999 State Compensation Insurance Fund v. WPS, Inc. case.

The organization also took pride in shining a spotlight on “Professionalism in Practice” through a social media campaign encouraging attorneys and those who worked with exemplary attorneys to share their stories of extreme civility in our community. The social media campaign used the hashtag #ProInPractice, and was successful in sharing over 20 stories of civility in San Diego with the world.
From Consolidated Statement of Activities¹:
Revenue: ......................... $3,071,951
Operating expenses: .............. $3,079,635²

From Consolidated Statement of Financial Position³:
Assets:
Cash, cash equivalents and investments: $4,896,983
Prepaid expenses, receivables and other: $174,772
Property and equipment: ................ $2,207,247
Total Assets: ....................... $7,279,002

Liabilities:
Deferred revenues: .................. $701,482
Indigent criminal defense grant fund . . $1,027,139⁴
Accrued Expenses and other liabilities: . $797,364
Total Liabilities: .................... $2,525,985

Net Assets:
Unrestricted: ....................... $4,644,811
Temporary restricted: ................ $108,206
Total net assets: .................... $4,753,017
Total liabilities & net assets: ........ $7,279,002

¹ Includes 2 LLCs
² Excludes deferred lease expense, depreciation, unrealized investment losses, 1241 State Street LLC expenses, Board approved use of investment funds, LRIS reserve funds, and PCC shared expenses
³ Includes 2 LLCs
⁴ Reported as an asset in prior years
The SDCBA’s Annual Report follows, with information on the Association’s 2015 membership and leadership; some of our outreach, community service, education and legal service programs; and an overview of our 2015 financials. On page 5 of the report, you will find charts detailing the Association’s fund breakdown for 2015. An independent auditor has audited the SDCBA’s finances for the year, and the full Auditor’s report is available upon request at the SDCBA’s offices.

Thank you to each and every SDCBA member for continuing to be the lifeblood of San Diego’s professional legal community, and for guiding, leading and participating in so many education and service programs this year, and for taking the time to connect to and engage with one another.

OTHER MEMBERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS:

In 2015, we welcomed 1,784 new members to the SDCBA. The SDCBA’s membership was as strong as ever in 2015, comprised of over 10,000 lawyers, legal professionals, and law students.

The Association provided both formal and informal ways for members to connect to one another outside of its educational programming, with 28 networking events and mixers taking place throughout the county in 2015.

In addition, all members were invited to attend the following bar-wide signature events in 2015:

• 1st Annual Summer Social
• Annual Judicial Reception
• Annual Bench-Bar Luncheon
• Annual Bench-Bar-Media Event
• Dialogue on Diversity
• Annual Awards Luncheon and Celebration of Community Service
• Law Student Welcome Reception
• Stepping Up to the Bar
Members also connected to one another and their community at the Bar Center at 401, whether they used the space as their “office away from their office” or came to the Bar Center to take part in one of 21 different social or educational programs and roundtables including:

- TED Talks and Brews – Discussion with SDCBA Executive Director/CEO
- Bar Book Club
- Practice Building and Management Seminars
- Quarterly PR Power Hour
- Social Media 101
- Werewolf Gaming Night
- Mindfulness Overview and Wellness Workshops
- Lunch and Learn for Emerging Lawyers with Jim Crosby

While members connected in person, they also took advantage of our online communities to connect and share insights virtually, with members sending 5,066 listserve messages across 27 listserves in 2015. The SDCBA also worked to expand our social media presence in 2015 to better connect with members and the community via social media and speak to members “where they are” and had a significant increase in connections on Facebook and Twitter, and engaging further with the launch of the SDCBA’s Instagram presence.

**ADDITIONAL EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS:**

The SDCBA’s educational programming breadth expanded in 2015, with in-person and virtual seminars, webinars, panel discussions, roundtable discussions and more. The Bar Center hosted an average of 3 educational programs a week, with CLE credits offered in General, Elimination of Bias, Substance Abuse and Ethics. All live programs were available via webcast so that members throughout the county could participate, while the Association also continued to offer a full catalog of self-study and participatory programming. 73% of members who participated in educational programs did so in person, with 26% participating virtually.

**LEADERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS:**

In 2015, Section and Committee leadership was restructured to create uniformity across the over 70 Sections and Committees, to create a shared leadership body within each group, and to provide more opportunities for attorneys at all experience levels to get involved in leadership positions. Each section now has a leadership structure consisting of one Chair position, one
Vice-Chair position, and 3 Member At-Large leadership positions.

The Board’s Leadership Outreach Committee recruited a diverse group of candidates to run for the 2016 Board of Directors. Stephanie Chow, Srinivas Hanumadass, Jan Maiden, Anna Romanskaya and Johanna Schiavoni were elected to serve on the Board of Directors, with Jason Evans serving as the representative for the Forum for Emerging Lawyers. Dino Paraskavopoulos was elected Treasurer, and Lilys McCoy was elected to serve as Secretary. Loren Freestone was elected to serve as the SDCBA’s President in 2017.

The California Conference of Bar Associations, known previously as the Conference of Delegates, met in October in San Diego, with a delegation of 16 attorneys representing San Diego and submitting over XX resolutions.

**SERVING SAN DIEGO:**

*Court Funding*

The work of the SDCBA’s Court Funding Action Committee (CFAC) continued in 2015, with a committee comprised of a diverse and distinguished panel of attorneys meeting with elected officials locally and across the state to discuss the state of our local courts, which have faced historic and devastating budget cuts since 2007. The Committee published a report on the state of the courts for 2015, an update to the comprehensive report published by the Association in 2013 with a focus on restoration of services to the courts that had been slashed by budget cuts in previous years.

*Public Service*

SDCBA members served nearly 2,500 members of the greater San Diego community at-large through a variety of projects and initiatives, including the quarterly Bench-Bar Serving Lunch to
Seniors collaboration, the Creek to Bay Clean-Up, the Law Week Poster and Essay Contest, and more.

Attorneys also volunteered to assist military servicemembers in securing a stay of proceedings through the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act Program, with attorneys volunteering and taking place in the program’s training and providing limited pro bono assistance for our active military personnel in civil litigation and family law matters. In total, SDCBA members were able to assist over 167 military members – 30 more than in the previous year.

Civics education continued to be a focus for the SDCBA with 53 state and federal judges/commissioners, nearly 200 attorney scorers, 60 courtroom monitors (law students, paralegals, Justice Corps) volunteering for the annual High School Mock Trial Competition. Teams from 26 high schools competed in the 2015 competition.

**LEGAL SERVICE PROGRAMS:**

The SDCBA’s Lawyer Referral and Information Service (LRIS) is now able to assist more San Diego residents find qualified lawyers than ever before, as for the first time ever, they began a live online chat service. Live chat is expected to garner over 2,000 additional referrals per year.

LRIS received nearly 52,000 phone calls and email requests resulting in over 26,000 case referrals. Twenty percent of all calls were referred to public agencies. The SDCBA also maintained its fee dispute program.

The SDCBA’s Attorney-Client Fee Dispute and Client Relations Programs continued to thrive.

The Civil Appellate Self-Help Workshops, a collaborative effort between the SDCBA, 4th District Court of Appeal, and the San Diego Law Library created in 2014, hosted 12 sessions in 2015 to help self-represented litigants through the appeals process.