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**SAN DIEGO COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION AND SAN DIEGO REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
JOIN FORCES TO LAUNCH SAN DIEGO STUDENT CIVICS ENGAGEMENT ACADEMY**

*First regional business and law civics program to be launched September 29 at reception with
California Supreme Court*

SAN DIEGO (September 19, 2016) – The San Diego County Bar Association (SDCBA) and the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce have partnered to create the first-ever regional Student Civics Engagement Academy. The Academy’s official launch will be September 29 at a lunchtime reception with the California Supreme Court.

The Academy was formed to educate high school seniors on various areas of the law and business in order to strengthen their interest in civic engagement. Through the program, students will hear from business leaders, judges, elected officials, lawyers and other educators who will demonstrate the importance of informed citizenship.

At the September 29th event, the California Supreme Court will help celebrate the program’s launch, with California Chief Justice Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye addressing the importance of civics education and her state-wide Civics Learning Initiative.

“We couldn’t be more proud to partner with the Chamber, and strengthen the connection between our business and law communities,” said Ellen Miller-Sharp, SDCBA Executive Director & CEO. “Ensuring that San Diego’s next generation of citizens is informed and educated is a priority for the SDCBA, and we look forward to exposing our high school seniors to dynamic leaders from different facets of our community.”

The San Diego Regional Chamber, which also has a long history of providing educational programs in conjunction with community partners, has worked alongside the SDCBA to develop the program’s curriculum.

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“Educating our young people – who are tomorrow’s leaders – about the important role civics play in all aspects of life is essential to San Diego having a well-prepared workforce for the future,” said Jerry Sanders, Chamber President and CEO. “Partnering with the Bar Association on this project is the perfect opportunity to tap into the strengths of both of our organizations to benefit San Diego students and ultimately our region’s future workforce, businesses, and communities.”

The San Diego Student Civics Academy will have its first session on October 8 and will continue through November. Professionals looking to get involved in future development of the Academy should email SDCBA Executive Director & CEO Ellen Miller-Sharp at emiller@sdcba.org.

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About the San Diego County Bar Association

The San Diego County Bar Association (SDCBA) is the region’s largest law related organization and the hub of the city’s legal community, headquartered in downtown San Diego. As the representative of the legal profession, the SDCBA aims to serve the county’s lawyers and legal professionals, and the greater San Diego community. For more information, please visit www.sdcba.org.

About the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce

The San Diego Regional Chamber is the hub for connections and collaboration among the regional business community, and uses that clout to advocate for public policies and candidates that support economic growth and the creation of jobs for all businesses. As the largest local Chamber on the West Coast, representing approximately 2,500 businesses and an estimated 300,000 jobs, the San Diego Regional Chamber is fighting to make San Diego the most business-friendly region in California. For more information, please visit SDChamber.org or call 619-544-1300.