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**IMPERIAL VALLEY RESIDENTS CAN NOW ACCESS QUALIFIED LAWYERS
THROUGH THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION**

SAN DIEGO (November 19, 2020) – The San Diego County Bar Association (SDCBA) has extended its Lawyer Referral and Information Service to the Imperial Valley, allowing more members of the public to easily find a qualified attorney for their legal needs, it was announced today. The expansion into Imperial Valley also means that lawyers in the area can be referred to clients in need of assistance.

Since 1952, the Lawyer Referral and Information Service, or LRIS, has connected the San Diego community with qualified, pre-screened local lawyers and legal resources and now has the capacity to serve consumers in Imperial Valley. The more than 400 attorneys who participate in the LRIS program are required to meet rigorous criteria and be approved by the SDCBA’s LRIS committee. Approved attorneys must be in good standing with the California State Bar, maintain proper insurance, and submit letters of recommendation from colleagues and/or judges.

The program’s bilingual staff refers community members seeking counsel to an appropriate lawyer in more than 40 areas of law or directs the caller to the appropriate legal resource. There is no charge for the consumer to get a referral. Participants receive up to 30 minutes of free consultation when they connect with an LRIS attorney. In addition, LRIS attorneys work on a flat-fee basis with clients in cases involving the following areas of law: personal or Chapter 7 bankruptcy, incorporation and LLC formation, estate planning, tenant consultations, and family law.

“We recognized that there was no comparable program in Imperial Valley to provide these types of referral services,” said SDCBA President Johanna Schiavoni. “Expanding our lawyer referral network and resources into Imperial Valley is consistent with our ongoing commitment to the community and to ensuring robust access to justice for all.”

Members of the public can receive a referral to an attorney by calling the SDCBA Lawyer Referral and Information Service at 1-800-464-1529. Consumers can learn more about LRIS at www.sdcba.org/lawyer-referral.

Imperial County attorneys who would like to join the LRIS referral network may call 1-800-464-1529 or e-mail iris@sdcb.org. Interested attorneys can learn more at www.sdcba.org/joiniris.

The San Diego County Bar Association, founded in 1899, is the region’s largest law-related organization, dedicated to serving the needs of all attorneys and the legal community in San Diego County.

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