

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 30, 2021

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**THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION DENOUNCES  
PERSONAL CRITICISM OF FEDERAL JUDGE**

Earlier this month, U.S. District Judge Roger Benitez issued a ruling striking down California's assault weapons ban as unconstitutional. During a press conference discussing an appeal of the decision, Governor Newsom referred to the judge as a "stone cold ideologue" and a "wholly-owned subsidiary of the gun lobby and the National Rifle Association."

We at the San Diego County Bar Association (SDCBA) firmly believe in allowing the judiciary to perform its function independently, free from political influence. Attorneys and public officials alike should uphold public confidence in the judicial system and utilize existing mechanisms for expressing legitimate complaints against the judiciary concerning bias or other judicial misconduct. While constitutional law scholars and private citizens alike may agree or disagree with the reasoning in a judge's opinion, attacking the personal character of the judge rather than the substance of the legal ruling undermines public confidence in the judiciary and its role in interpreting and applying the law.

The SDCBA always has and always will champion the importance of maintaining the integrity of our justice system and not impugning the integrity of its proceedings or its members.

*The [San Diego County Bar Association](#), established 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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