



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 27, 2020

CONTACT:

Ron Marcus

SDCBA Director of Outreach

619.321.4116

rmarcus@sdcbaba.org

**THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION DENOUNCES THE USE OF
RACIST, XENOPHOBIC TERMS TO DESCRIBE COVID-19**

Community and inclusion are among the [core values](#) upon which the San Diego County Bar Association is built. We are proud to foster an environment of respect, civility, and collaboration among our nearly 10,000 members, the legal community, and the community at large. Adhering to core values is vital in times of crises, like these, as our society grapples with the global pandemic wrought by novel coronavirus COVID-19. Community leaders have a responsibility to lead by example and encourage accurate reporting of facts.

That is why the San Diego County Bar Association joins with our colleagues at the Pan Asian Lawyers of San Diego (PALSD) and the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA) in denouncing the use of terms like “Wuhan Virus,” “Kung Flu,” “Chinese Virus,” or other racially inflammatory statements to refer to COVID-19. Language like this is derogatory, divisive, and ultimately dangerous.

The World Health Organization deliberately named the novel coronavirus COVID-19 in accordance with its [guidelines for naming illnesses](#), which it released in 2015 in recognition of the fact that certain disease names spark backlash against members of religious or ethnic communities. We should all adhere to the language provided by the WHO.

Viruses don't discriminate and neither should we.

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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