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2022 Annual Awards Ceremony & Celebration of Community Service

INTRODUCTION

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POSTER & VIDEO CONTEST AWARD WINNERS PRESENTATION

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CLOSING REMARKS

David Majchrzak
We the People

of the United States, in order to form

Toward a More Perfect Union

The Constitution in Times of Change
Toward a More Perfect Union
The Constitution in Times of Change

POSTER CONTEST WINNERS GRADES 6-8

FIRST PLACE
MADI HOUCK
SAINT JAMES ACADEMY

SECOND PLACE
AVA HANNA
SAINT JAMES ACADEMY

THIRD PLACE
FELICITY CULVER
SETON HOME SCHOOL
Toward a More Perfect Union
The Constitution in Times of Change

POSTER CONTEST WINNERS GRADES 9-12

FIRST PLACE
BRISA ROJAS
VISTA HIGH SCHOOL

SECOND PLACE
GABRIELLE MAJCHRZAK
POWAY HIGH SCHOOL
VIDEO CONTEST WINNERS

FIRST PLACE - GRADES 6-8
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FAITH BELTRAN
ST. GREGORY THE GREAT SCHOOL

FIRST PLACE - GRADES 9-12
⭐️⭐️⭐️⭐️⭐️
GABRIELLE MAJCHRZAK
POWAY HIGH SCHOOL
SECOND PLACE - GRADES 6-8

JACK WISNIEW
ST. GREGORY THE GREAT SCHOOL

THIRD PLACE - GRADES 6-8

MASON POTTER, STELLA DONBOLI
ST. GREGORY THE GREAT SCHOOL
DISTINGUISHED ORGANIZATION AWARD

UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO
SCHOOL OF LAW LEGAL CLINICS

This award is presented for outstanding contributions over a period of time by a lay person, or a group or organization not comprised primarily of attorneys or judicial officers, which resulted in a significant, favorable impact on some facet of the legal system, the legal community or profession, or civics education. We are pleased to present this award to recognize the Legal Clinics at the University of San Diego, which celebrated their 50th Anniversary in the Fall of 2021. Students can choose from eleven distinct clinics, including Appellate, Civil, Education and Disability, Entrepreneurship, Federal Tax, Immigration, State Income Tax, State Sales and Use Tax, Veterans, Women's Legal Clinic and Workers' Rights. In 2021, the clinics closed over 300 cases and trained more than 155 students, who collectively logged nearly 20,000 hours of work. Participating students serve the community by providing legal advice and representation to low-income individuals and families and in exchange, they receive practical training and mentoring. During the pandemic, the clinics shifted online and produced a series of videos explaining the legal process and helping community members to file legal paperwork in a changed world. Moreover, the clinics are working to establish a new Housing Rights project as part of the Civil Clinic and joined the Legal Aid Society of San Diego as a member of the San Diego Eviction Prevention Collaboration.

SERVICE BY A NEW LAWYER AWARD

CLAUDIA L. IGNACIO
ATTORNEY AT LAW, HONE MAXWELL LLP

This award is presented for outstanding service by a New Lawyer who, during their first seven years in practice, has demonstrated a significant commitment to serving the legal profession, the justice system, or the SDCBA through legal education, mentoring, or community service. We are pleased to present this award in recognition of Claudia's service to the legal profession, the community and the SDCBA. Claudia has shown a significant commitment to the legal profession by mentoring numerous students at California Western School of Law, Thomas Jefferson School of Law, and University of San Diego School of Law. This award also recognizes Claudia's commitment to the San Diego La Raza Lawyers Association (SDLRLA), which began soon after she graduated from law school. She currently serves on the SDLRLA Board and several committees, including Membership, which she co-chairs, Community Service, and Public Relations and Marketing. She also co-founded the event, “In Our Community/En La Comunidad,” whose mission is to provide legal resources to the community. Additionally, Claudia has volunteered as an attorney scorer for the San Diego County High School Mock Trial Competition, has assisted the Lawyer Referral & Information Service by speaking on Spanish Radio Shows and providing free consultations, and she frequently presents educational seminars on tax law inside and outside the United States.
SERVICE TO THE LEGAL COMMUNITY AWARD

BLANCA QUINTERO
ASSISTANT UNITED STATES ATTORNEY,
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY’S OFFICE
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

This award is presented for outstanding long-term or significant contributions that further the goals of the legal profession and promote ethics, integrity, and professionalism in the practice of law through legal education, civics education, mentoring, or service to the Association or the legal community. We are pleased to present this award to recognize Blanca’s long-term commitment to the legal profession and legal community as a member of the Ethnic Minority Relations Committee of the State Bar of California. This award also recognizes Blanca’s contributions to the advancement of diversity through various local leadership positions, including immediate past Chair of the SDCBA’s Committee for Diversity and Inclusion, chair of the SDCBA Diversity Pledge Subcommittee, Board Member and Treasurer of Women of Color in Law, and co-chair of the Lawyers Club of San Diego’s Diverse Women’s Committee. Blanca also has served as the Latina Commissioner with the Hispanic National Bar Association’s Latina Commission, which serves the community and the legal profession by identifying and studying barriers to the professional development and advancement of Latina lawyers.

SERVICE BY A PUBLIC ATTORNEY AWARD

DAVID P. FINN
ASSISTANT UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY’S OFFICE
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

This award is presented for outstanding service to the community, the legal profession, the SDCBA, legal education, or mentoring by an attorney who also has demonstrated excellence in the practice of law in the public sector. We are pleased to present this award to recognize David’s significant service to the community and legal profession. In the past year, David has acted as a Court Appointed Special Advocate for the Superior Court, founded the San Diego Federal Bar Foundation and founded the first Pro Bono Legal Program at the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of California. David serves as a board member of the Wesley House Student Residences at San Diego State University, a non-profit that provides rent-reduced housing and services to former foster youth and formerly incarcerated students, and he also serves as a board member for the California Western School of Law Alumni Association. This award also recognizes David’s SDCBA service on the Governance Committee, Leadership Academy Subcommittee, and Committee on Diversity and Inclusion. He is also an SDCBA Diversity Fellowship mentor and Affinity Bar Task Force Ambassador to the South Asian Bar Association. Additionally, this award recognizes David’s eight years of commitment to mentoring as a San Diego County High School Mock Trial Competition coach.
SERVICE TO DIVERSITY AWARD

KEN SO
CHIEF DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY & CHIEF DIVERSITY OFFICER
SAN DIEGO CITY ATTORNEY’S OFFICE

This award is presented for outstanding service by a member of the legal profession who (1) has taken intentional and identifiable steps to advance Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in a legal workplace or the legal profession; (2) has improved access to justice for individuals from demographic groups with historical challenges to access in numerous aspects of the legal profession and community; or (3) has sought to eradicate barriers for historically excluded or disadvantaged legal professionals, including but not limited to legal professionals who are Black, Indigenous, Persons of Color, LGBTQ+, or of different abilities. We are pleased to present this award to recognize Ken's significant efforts to diversify, educate and advance the membership of the San Diego City Attorney's Office (CAO). Ken serves as the CAO's Chief Diversity Officer, leads the Committee for Diversity and Inclusion, and created the Racial Equity Task Force. The task force has implemented office-wide training for new and existing city attorneys on a number of topics, including implicit bias in prosecutorial decision-making, and partnered with the CAO's Brady Committee and Public Ethics & Integrity Unit for additional sessions. Under Ken's leadership, the CAO has organized job panels for Black, Indigenous and People of Color student groups and targeted historically black colleges and university students for the office's paid internship program. Ken has served on the SDCBA Anti-Racism Subcommittee and the Leadership Outreach Committee; he is a member of the Superior Court's Anti-Bias and Legal Equity Subcommittee and a past Board Member of the Pan Asian Lawyers of San Diego; and he is an adjunct professor at CalWestern and USD.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

IAN M. SERUELO
ATTORNEY, LAW OFFICES OF IAN M. SERUELO

This award is presented for outstanding contributions by an attorney, law firm, or organization to the needs of the community (e.g., charitable, cultural, humanitarian, educational), other than directly through the SDCBA. We are pleased to present this award to recognize Ian's efforts to ensure access to justice and provide legal advocacy for nonprofit organizations. Ian is serving his fourth term as member of the Advisory Board of the San Diego Immigrant Rights Consortium and has long endeavored to protect and advocate for San Diego's immigrant and underserved populations. In support of those efforts, he has worked with the American Bar Association Immigration Justice Project, Alliance San Diego, Al Otro Lado, the Pilipino Workers Center of Southern California, Pag-asa Law Clinic, the Employee Rights Center, the LASSD, the San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program, the San Diego chapter of the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, the United Taxi Workers of San Diego / Office and Professional Employees International Union, the Somali Bantu Association of America, and Casa Cornelia. Moreover, he was one of founders of the Chaparral Humanitarian Alliance, which provides humanitarian relief and pro bono legal assistance to asylum seekers living in refugee encampments in the Chaparral area of Tijuana.
OUTSTANDING JURIST AWARD

HON. LARRY A. BURNS
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR
THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

This award is presented to an exemplary jurist who, over the course of their career, has provided outstanding service to the bench, the legal profession, the justice system, or the public. We are pleased to present this award to honor and recognize Judge Burns’ 24 years of distinguished service as a U.S. Magistrate and U.S. District Court Judge for the United States District Court for the Southern District of California. Judge Burns serves in leadership positions for several bar organizations, including the Federal Bar Association Advisory Board, the Association of Business Trial Lawyers Board of Governors and Judicial Advisory Committee, the Armenian Bar Association’s Judicial Advisory Board, and the American Board of Trial Advocates Masters of Trial program, and he frequently serves the legal profession by speaking at educational events. This award also honors Judge Burns’ service to the justice system and the public in his role as Chief Judge of the Southern District during the pandemic. By using every available tool and by involving community stakeholders and medical experts, Judge Burns was able to implement procedures that allowed the Southern District to remain open to all litigants, both civil and criminal, and to process criminal cases in a timely and efficient manner so as to avoid inmates remaining incarcerated in facilities where they had a higher risk of contracting COVID-19. As a result of Judge Burn's leadership, the Southern District has no civil or criminal backlog today.

OUTSTANDING ATTORNEY AWARD

JAMES D. CROSBY
ATTORNEY AT LAW

This award is presented to an exemplary attorney who, over the course of a career, (1) has demonstrated significant legal expertise; (2) served as a model of civility and professionalism in the practice of law; and (3) has made an outstanding contribution to the legal profession, the justice system, or the public. The SDCBA presents this legacy award to recognize prolonged service to the San Diego legal community. We are pleased to present this award to honor Jim’s distinguished career. The award recognizes Jim’s long-standing dedication to the San Diego legal profession – as an indefatigable trial lawyer, as a volunteer who hardly ever says no and as a mentor to new attorneys. He has served on the boards of numerous legal, organizations, including the SDCBA, the San Diego County Bar Foundation, and the Bar Association of Northern San Diego County, and he has freely given of his time as an author, podcaster and blogger. He recently completed a term on the Judicial Nominees Evaluation Commission of the State Bar of California, and previously served as President of the Board of Directors of the University of San Diego School of Law Alumni Association. His pro bono work for Casa Cornelia and his long-term membership in numerous legal organizations, including Lawyers Club of San Diego, the San Diego La Raza Lawyers Association, the Tom Homann LGBT Law Association, and the San Diego chapters of the Association of Business Trial Lawyers and the Federal Bar Association, further his profound and enduring influence on our legal community.
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