

**For Immediate Release**

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**San Diego Opera Elects New Board of Directors
At 2009 Annual Meeting**

San Diego, CA – (June 23, 2009) San Diego Opera's 2009-2010 Board of Directors and Executive Committee members were elected at the Company's Annual Meeting last month at the Sheraton La Jolla.

The Executive Committee includes **David E. Kleinfeld** as president of the Board of Directors. Mr. Kleinfeld succeeds **Robert B. Horsman**, who has completed his term. Mr. Horsman continues to serve on the Board as a Vice President. Also on the Executive Committee is **Karen S. Cohn** as President-Elect; **M. Faye Wilson**, Executive Vice President; **Bill Ruddy**, Vice President of Finance; and **Harry F. Hixson, Jr.** as Secretary.

Along with Mr. Horsman, acting Vice Presidents include: **Esther J. Burnham**, **Jennifer Greenfield**, **Claire Reiss**, **Stacy Kellner Rosenberg**, **Ellen Scripps**, **William R. Stensrud** and **Iris Lynn Strauss**.

"Our new Board members, and those continuing, willingly are taking on the responsibilities of leading this Company through still-difficult financial times. I, and all the staff, look forward to working with them this year," comments General and Artistic Director Ian Campbell. "Being a board member of any opera company is for those who believe with confidence in the value of opera as an art form; in the importance of opera in our community; in maintaining the highest standards of performance; and in working to provide the resources necessary to make the magic of opera possible. All of these extraordinary people are committed to San Diego Opera, and these challenges."

Biographical information on the Executive Committee can be found below and a complete list of the 2009-2010 Board Members follows.

David E. Kleinfeld, President of the Board of Directors, is a partner with Foley & Lardner LLP, where he is a member of the firm's General Commercial Litigation and IP Litigation Practices. Mr. Kleinfeld was a partner with Heller Ehrman LLP before joining Foley in 2008. Mr. Kleinfeld is listed by *San Diego Magazine* as one of San Diego's top commercial and intellectual property litigators and by *California Law Business* as one of California's top rainmakers. He is included in *The Best Lawyers in America*, 2008 edition, in the areas of commercial and intellectual property litigation and was selected for inclusion in the 2007-2009

San Diego Super Lawyers lists for his intellectual property litigation practice. Mr. Kleinfeld graduated from the New York University School of Law (J.D., 1980) and received his undergraduate degree in government from the Wesleyan University (B.A., *cum laude*, 1977). Mr. Kleinfeld is author of "New Local Rules Pave the Way to Speedier Patent Trials," *San Diego Daily Transcript*, June 12, 2007.

Karen S. Cohn, President-Elect, has been actively involved with The Old Globe for over 15 years and chaired four of the theatre's most successful galas. She is also a strong supporter of The Bishops School in La Jolla, California

M. Faye Wilson, Executive Vice President, is the CEO of Wilson Boyles Management Group and a retired executive of Home Depot and Bank of America. She is a graduate of Duke University and received a M.B.A. from USC. Ms. Wilson has served on the corporate boards of Home Depot and Farmers Insurance. In addition, she has served on the boards of the Neurosciences Institute, Atlanta Symphony, Duke University, the Mardan Foundation and Children's Theatre Guild. Ms. Wilson is a former President of San Diego Opera.

Billy Ruddy, Vice President of Finance, is a 28-year veteran of Ernst & Young specializing in corporate tax advisory services. Among his career milestones, he was admitted to the firm's partnership in 1985 and was the founding partner of the Merger & Acquisition Tax Group for the U.S. Pacific Southwest Area in 1995. From 2000 through 2002, Bill worked in Ernst & Young's Merger and Acquisition Tax Group in London where he assisted U.S. clients who were making acquisitions in Europe. He recently relocated to Ernst & Young's San Diego office and currently works with Qualcomm and other major corporate clients. Respected for his extensive knowledge in corporate tax matters, Mr. Ruddy has published many articles and given several presentations on the topic. He has also taught Ernst & Young's in-house tax courses on corporate reorganizations and Subchapter S corporations.

Harry F. Hixson, Jr., Secretary, is Chairman and CEO of BrainCells Inc. Dr. Hixson is also Chairman of Sequenom, Inc. and a Director of Discovery Partners International, Inc. and Arena Pharmaceuticals, Inc. He served as Chief Executive Officer of Elitra Pharmaceuticals, a privately held biopharmaceutical company focused on anti-infective drug development from February 1998 until May 2003. Dr. Hixson held various management positions with Amgen, Inc. from 1985 until 1991. He was Amgen's President and Chief Operating Officer and a member of the Amgen Board of Directors from 1988 until 1991. During this period Amgen developed two major breakthrough therapeutic products, Epogen and Neupogen, which have been approved for sale worldwide. Dr. Hixson is a former President of San Diego Opera.

Esther J. Burnham, Life Director and Vice President, is an investor and an outstanding community volunteer, and a resident of San Diego since 1973. She is a past Commissioner of the City of San Diego Commission for Arts & Culture, and her past Board service includes the UCSD Board of Overseers and Chancellor's Association, San Diego Museum of Art, San Diego Center for Children and the San Diego Community Foundation. She currently sits on the Board of Directors for the Neurosciences Institute. She is one of two Life Directors of San Diego Opera.

Jennifer Greenfield, Vice President, is an active community volunteer and a former Director of Marketing and Business Development at Mission Bay Hospital. Born in Sacramento and a 15-year resident of San Diego, she graduated from UC Davis and received a master's degree in health care administration from SDSU.

Robert B. Horsman, Vice President, has been an instrumental force at San Diego National Bank (SDNB) since its inception in 1981. He began his career with SDNB in the bank's lending

division as Senior Vice President and played a significant role in selling stock in the bank's initial \$9,000,000 capitalization. In 1996, Robert was named President and in January 2000, the responsibilities of CEO were added to his position. Robert's leadership over the last ten years has helped the bank increase its asset base to more than \$2.4 billion. He has also played a significant role in the bank's expansion throughout the County. In September 2005 the bank opened its 20th and 21st branches, which are located in Mira Mesa and Oceanside. Robert received a Bachelor of Science degree in Finance/Banking in 1970 from Texas Tech University. He continues to be actively involved with both the Texas Tech alumni association as well as the Phi Delta Theta Fraternity. He is a former President of San Diego Opera.

Claire Reiss, Vice President, is an investor in Biocept and President and CEO of Reising Enterprises. She serves on the boards of Biocept, MedOptic, and is a past trustee of Mount Marty College. She has been active in numerous civic groups in the San Diego area. She holds a B.S. in Medical Technology and an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Mount Marty College.

Stacy Kellner Rosenberg, Vice President, recently relocated to San Diego from the New York City area where she had been the Executive Director of Friends of Karen, a regional not-for-profit organization dedicated to providing financial, emotional and advocacy support to families with critically ill children. Before assuming the leadership of Friends of Karen, Stacy was an attorney in New York where her practice focused on complex civil litigation. She served as a law clerk to the Honorable Gerard L. Goettel, U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of New York. An honors graduate of the Harvard Law School, Stacy also holds an M.B.A. from S.U.N.Y at Binghamton. Stacy has been a contributing author to several legal publications, including the well-respected treatise *Commercial Litigation in New York State Courts*, 2nd edition, edited by Robert L. Haig, Esq.

Ellen Scripps, Vice President, is a community and arts activist and a supporter of the NRA, Safari Club International, and the San Diego Yacht Club. She received her BA in Journalism and Mass Communication with a dual specialization in Journalism and Film Studies from Lynn University.

William R. Stensrud, Vice President, is a private investor and CEO of InstantEncore.com. A graduate from MIT he began his career at AT&T Bell Labs, progressing through marketing, sales and senior management positions. He left the company to become an early employee of ROLM. Later, he was a founder of StrataCom and then CEO of Primary Access. Bill has been cited as a top 20 ranking on the Forbes list of "Movers and Shakers in Venture Capital." Mr. Stensrud is a former President of San Diego Opera.

Iris Lynn Strauss, Life Director and Vice President, serves as the President of San Diego Opera's DOW Diva Investment Club. She holds the position of Commissioner for the City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture. In this position, she also served as the Chairman of the Public Art Program and Co-chairman of the Public Art Master Plan Committee. Mrs. Strauss was the co-founder and first Chairperson of BRAVO, San Diego for 1999 and 2000 and served as Angel/Patron Chair for 2001 and 2002. She is actively affiliated with the Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego and many other arts organizations as well as the United Jewish Federation and the San Diego Center for Jewish Culture. Mrs. Strauss is a former President of San Diego Opera.

The 2010 International Season

La bohème
Nabucco

Giacomo Puccini
Giuseppe Verdi

January 30, February 2, 5 and 7 (mat), 2010
February 20, 23, 26 and 28 (mat), 2010

Romeo and Juliet
La traviata

Charles Gounod
Giuseppe Verdi

March 13, 16, 19 and 21 (mat), 2010
April 17, 20, 23 and 25 (mat), 2010

Purchasing Tickets

Three and four-opera subscriptions for the 2010 International Season are now available. Regular subscriptions range from \$90 - \$720 (some Saturday subscriptions slightly higher) and can be purchased by calling (619) 533-7000 or online at www.sdopera.com. Senior citizen discount packages are available for full-season Tuesday night subscribers. Call (619) 533-7000 for more information.

For information about single ticket availability and prices please visit www.sdopera.com or call (619) 533-7000 to speak to an opera representative.

\$20 rush tickets, subject to availability, are available 90-minutes prior to performances. There is a one-ticket per person limit. Cash only.

General Information

A widely respected member of the international opera community, *San Diego Opera* brings the world's finest artists to San Diego. Founded in 1965, and led for the last 26 years by General Director and Artistic Director Ian D. Campbell, San Diego Opera produces performances of the highest artistic quality while remaining financially stable. San Diego Opera is also home to one of the most extensive, diverse opera education and outreach programs in North America, reaching over 70,000 schoolchildren and 20,000 adults in San Diego County and Baja California.

www.sdopera.com

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* Life Director