

SAN DIEGO COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION NEWS RELEASE



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San Diego County Bar Association Announces 2005 Service Awards

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SAN DIEGO, CA, March 22, 2005 — The San Diego County Bar Association has selected twelve recipients of the SDCBA 2005 Service Awards. Awardees included 10 individuals and 2 organizations. SDCBA President Wells Lyman will honor award winners on May 6 at the Bar's annual Law Week luncheon at the Bar Center.

"The recipients of this year's service awards approach issues facing San Diego County with innovation and integrity, and are an inspiration to the community, and to me personally," said SDCBA President Wells Lyman. "The Bar presents awards to these dedicated people knowing full well, it is they who give to us, who give to the bar, and who give to San Diego."

The 2005 Service Awards represent the 20th year of SDCBA's annual recognition of exceptional individuals, law firms, agencies and community-based organizations who have made significant achievements and had a positive impact on the public, the profession and the Association. All candidates are reviewed by a selection committee and approved by the SDCBA Board of Directors.

Community Service

The 2005 award for Community Service is presented to two individuals this year: **Michele Macosky** and **Michael Wischkaemper**. Macosky, a solo employment law practitioner, is being honored for her commitment to San Diego through her development of the Community Outreach Committee of the Lawyers Club of San Diego. Through Macosky's leadership, the committee has accomplished a number of public service goals since its founding, including a literacy program and multiple construction projects for local nonprofits such as Center for Community Solutions and Sisters by Choice, as well as Central Elementary. She was appointed to the San Diego Commission on the Status of Women and currently serves as a County Commissioner. Wischkaemper is the head of the Carlsbad Farm Worker Housing Coordinating Committee, a migrant worker advocate group investigating housing solutions for Carlsbad's seasonal population of field workers. Wischkaemper's committee and its project partner nonprofit developer Community HousingWorks are seeking to acquire a 27,000 sq. foot facility near the McClellan-Palomar Airport and converting it into a 64-bed facility with showers and a laundry to house migrant workers.

Service to San Diego County Bar Association

Wendy L. Patrick, Deputy District Attorney in the Family Protection Division of the San Diego District Attorney's Office, and formerly SDCBA Board of Directors member, receives this year's award for service to the Association. As a member and incoming vice chair of the SDCBA's Ethics committee, Patrick is a frequent speaker for SDCBA seminars and CLE programs. She is also a regular contributor and sits on the editorial board of *San Diego Lawyer* magazine.

Service to the Legal Profession

This year's award for service to the legal profession goes to **Cindy D. Davis**, Head Deputy City Attorney of the Consumer and Environmental Protection Unit of the San Diego City Attorney's Office. In addition to prosecuting complex consumer fraud crimes, Davis' dedication to the legal profession is evident in her

volunteer hours supporting the SDCBA, where she formerly served on the board, the Lawyers Club, where she formerly served as president, San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program and the Tidelands Advisory Committee of the City of Imperial Beach.

Service to Legal Education

The Service to Legal Education Award goes to **Marjorie Cohn**. Cohn teaches criminal law and procedure, constitutional law and international human rights. She has taught at Thomas Jefferson School of Law since 1992, and consistently receives rave reviews from her students. Internationally known, Cohn is a frequent writer and speaker on constitutional law and international human rights issues.

Service by a Public Attorney

Deputy District Attorney **Sherry M. Thompson** receives the 2005 Service by a Public Attorney Award. Thompson joined the District Attorney's Office in 1995 handling misdemeanor and felony trials. After a leave of absence, she returned to the D.A.'s office and joined the mental health team before joining the JUDGE unit, a grant-funded unit designed to combat gangs and narcotics offenses. Thompson is the past president of the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association, and recently coordinated the EBGBA's pro bono program activities with the Legal Aid Society of San Diego.

Distinguished Citizen

The Distinguished Citizen Award goes to a person who is not a lawyer or a judge, whose contributions have had a significant impact on some facet of the legal system. The SDCBA presents this award to **Rosemary Johnston**, program director of Interfaith Shelter Network providing emergency shelter to homeless men, women and children around the country. Ms. Johnston regularly works to address and alleviate San Diego community members' concerns, questions and misperceptions about homelessness and San Diego's homeless population. She is a member of a the *San Diego Rescue Mission's Neighborhood Advisory Committee*, *Regional Task Force on the Homeless*, the *San Diego Housing Federation Policy Committee*, and the *Policy Committee of Housing California*, legislative chair of the *Regional Continuum of Care Council*. She also served for 7 years on the Board of Directors of the *San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program*. Since 1987, Johnston has been devoted to establishing and maintaining shelter programs throughout the County, facilitating outreach efforts to homes individuals and families and protecting the civil and legal rights of destitute San Diegans.

Distinguished Organization

Vietnam Veterans of San Diego (VVSD) is recognized as the 2005 Distinguished Organization. Collaborating with the Office of the Public Defender, the Department of Child Support Services, and the San Diego Volunteer Lawyer program, VVSD offers legal services including the Homeless Court program, Non-Custodial Parent program and the Stand Down program which all serve to eliminate obstacles to rehabilitation and reintegration of veterans back into society. Started in 1988, the Stand Down program involves a range of services brought to homeless veterans on the grounds of San Diego High School such as meeting basic physical needs (showers, medical, dental, haircuts) as well as legal services. In 2004, over 800 veterans accessed services through Stand Down and nearly 600 criminal cases were cleared at the criminal court held on site to resolve misdemeanor citations.

Diversity

The Diversity Award is presented to **Regina Petty**, past president of the SDCBA and civil litigation partner at Wilson Petty Kosmo & Turner LLP, for her efforts in promoting and encouraging diversity in the legal profession. She serves on numerous boards and commissions to ensure that individuals of color, women, disabled and other disenfranchised constituencies have opportunities that have been traditionally not available. Her work has positively impacted judicial nominations and appointments, legal hiring practices, gender issues and the law, government contracting and county-wide race relations.

Outstanding Jurist

Judge **Vallera Joyner Johnson** receives this year's Outstanding Jurist Award. Judge Johnson is an administrative law judge with the Office of Administrative Hearings, and is committed to helping people of color, particularly women of color, advance their legal careers. She does this by volunteering as a mentor through local bar associations, and by organizing networking opportunities for law students of color. She

is an active member of the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association, the Lawyers Club and serves as a liaison between the EBGBA and the Black Law Students Association of the three San Diego law schools.

Public Service by a Law Firm or Agency

Celebrating 60 years of service, **Procopio, Cory, Hargreaves & Savitch LLP** is this year's recipient of the Public Service by a Law Firm or Agency Award. With over 80 attorneys investing their time and resources into nearly 200 trade, community, charitable, educational, arts and cultural organizations, Procopio has a strong presence in such organizations as the SDCBA, San Diego Volunteer Lawyers, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, the Anti-Defamation League, Kids Korps, United Way, San Diego Humane Society, Boys & Girls Club, Fresh Start, Goodwill Industries of San Diego, San Diego Opera, and the American Diabetes Association, to name only a few.

Outstanding Attorney of the Year

Carl R. Poirot receives the Bar's most prestigious honor as 2005's Outstanding Attorney of the Year. As Executive Director of the San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program for 18 years, Poirot has been an energetic and imaginative leader in the development and delivery of pro bono legal services to underprivileged San Diego County individuals and needy nonprofit institutions. Under Poirot's direction, 3,000 attorneys, paralegals, law students and other advocates contributed more than 27,000 hours of pro bono legal services to more than 7,000 indigent San Diegans in 2004 alone. Poirot's tireless efforts have led to programs that bring assistance to victims of domestic violence, abused and abandoned children, the elderly, unrepresented litigants, victims of the 2003 San Diego wildfires and many others. By creating and nurturing effective partnerships with the legal, corporate, government and social service communities, Poirot effects positive change in the lives of thousands of San Diegans. Following the board's approval of the award recipients, Bar president Wells Lyman said of Poirot's upcoming retirement this summer, "Carl is one of those individuals who has devoted his career to doing something that matters. I am proud to know him."

The 7,500 member San Diego County Bar Association was founded in 1899 and is headquartered in downtown San Diego.

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