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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**SAN DIEGO COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION FOCUSES ON ‘RULE OF LAW’ DURING
LAW WEEK 2008 (APRIL 26 – MAY 4)**

Week of Law-Related Programs Planned to Provide Legal Education and Assistance to San Diego Community

SAN DIEGO – From April 26 through May 4, attorneys throughout San Diego County will participate in activities designed to assist and educate the San Diego community as a part of the San Diego County Bar Association’s (SDCBA) Law Week 2008 program.

All programming will center around this year’s Law Week theme, “The Rule of Law - Foundation for Opportunity and Fairness,” and will aim to foster public understanding of the rule of law through discussion of its role in society and its significance in sustaining a free society.

“Law Week is a very important part of the Bar's outreach to the San Diego community. This year, which is the 50th Anniversary of Law Week, we are offering some very exciting educational and assistance programs throughout the County,” said SDCBA President Heather L. Rosing. “Through our many Law Week events, we are celebrating the Rule of Law this year. The Rule of Law is basically a system that features fair, understandable, and stable laws, and competent and independent lawyers and judges, for the benefit of our citizenry.”

In 1958, President Eisenhower proclaimed the first Law Day as a "day of national dedication to the principle of government under law" in the U.S. Since then, Law Day has developed into a week-long national celebration. The 50th anniversary of law day will take place during Law Week on May 1.

The SDCBA’s Law Week programming includes several opportunities for the public to speak with volunteer lawyers free of charge as well as a variety of events and programs geared towards educating students, and celebrating San Diego’s legal community. This year’s events include:

April 29: Unity Breakfast

Hosted by the SDCBA’s Ethnic Relations and Diversity Committee, this breakfast will feature guest speaker Anurima Bhargava, Director of the Education Practice at the NAACP Legal Defense & Educational Fund. The Unity Breakfast begins at 7 a.m. with registration. The cost of the breakfast is \$18 per person and the deadline to RSVP is April 24.

May 1: Youth Day In Court

Students from area high schools will take part in this annual event designed to give students a real-life look into San Diego's justice system. Participating students will meet at the San Diego Superior Court in the Presiding Department for a presentation about the Law Week theme, "The Rule of Law - Foundation for Opportunity and Fairness" by Judge So. The students will also get an orientation on how to visit courtroom and will watch trials in session following which they will present their own mock trial. The event concludes with a debriefing and Q&A.

May 1: SDCBA and KNSD NBC 7/39 "Ask a Lawyer"

Lawyers volunteers will answer legal questions from the public on a wide range of topics at the KNSD NBC 7/39 studios downtown. The event will take place during the morning news from 5 a.m. to 8 a.m. Those with legal questions are invited to call 619-237-0700.

April 30: Legal Resources Knowledge Fair

Through the efforts of the San Diego County Court and the San Diego County Public Law Library, the Legal Resources Knowledge Fair will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. This event will take place at all four court divisions: Central (Hall of Justice), North County, South County and East County. The fairs will provide information from the courts, the Public Law Library and other nonprofit legal groups about programs and resources available in San Diego County that provide people with assistance on many legal issues. For more information or to participate in this event, contact Gina Catalano at (619) 531-4436.

May 1: Family Law Facilitator Program

Family law practitioners will provide free legal information at Family Court in South Bay from 9 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m. and from 9 to 11 a.m., 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Family Court downtown.

May 1 – May 31: Children's Book Drive

Beginning May 1 and continuing throughout the month, the SDCBA's Children at Risk Committee will sponsor a Children's Book Drive. New and gently used books for children K-12 will be collected from multiple locations to benefit local at-risk schools and community organizations. As part of the Book Drive, a Scholastic book fair will be held on April 28 and 29 in the cafeteria of the downtown Federal Building at 880 Front Street, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Scholastic will also give a percentage of the total proceeds earned back to the Book Drive. That money will be used to purchase additional new children's books. Contact the Bar Center at (619) 231-0781 or email pro-bono@sdparalegals.org for drop off location information.

May 2: Annual Law Week Luncheon

The annual Law Week Luncheon will be held at noon at the SDCBA Bar Center, during which the Bar's 2008 Service Awards will be presented and winners of the SDCBA student poster and essay contests will be recognized. The cost of the luncheon is \$28 per person and the deadline to RSVP is April 24. To attend, please contact Janet Grant at (619) 231-0781

May 3: Free Law at Kobey's

The SDCBA's major outreach event for Law Week is the seventh annual Free Law at Kobey's which will be held on Saturday, May 3, at Kobey's Swap Meet at the Sports Arena from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. At this event, attorneys and other legal professionals volunteer to provide no-cost, informal, one-on-one legal consultations with the public. The volunteer lawyers will answer questions on many different areas of law including topics such as family law, bankruptcy, employment issues, living wills, criminal, immigration, DUI, landlord/tenant disputes and more. Legal services will also be available in Spanish.

May 4: Entertainment Law & Sports Law

On May 4, from noon to 4 p.m., lawyer volunteers from the SDCBA's Entertainment/Sports Law section will staff tables and provide free legal information on entertainment law at the downtown Borders bookstore. Volunteer attorneys will answer questions about contracts, copyrights, trademarks and more for artists, writers and musicians.

For additional information regarding Law Week 2008, visit www.sdcba.org. Attorneys interested in volunteering for law week events can register at www.sdcba.org/lawweekvolunteer.

Founded in 1899 and over 10,000 members strong, the San Diego County Bar Association is the region's oldest and largest law-related organization and is headquartered in downtown San Diego.

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