

## **Application for 2011 Annual NCWBA Outstanding Member Program Award**

About Lawyers Club of San Diego:

Lawyers Club of San Diego was founded in 1972 by a group of seven women attorneys who sought to address issues of gender discrimination in the law, in the legal profession, and in the community. The new bar association was given the gender-neutral name Lawyers Club to demonstrate that its membership was open to all who were committed to fair treatment under the law regardless of gender.

Today, Lawyers Club has approximately 1,000 members, including federal and state judges, attorneys, academics, corporate supporters, and law students. Lawyers Club remains true to its mission to advance the status of women in the law and in society and has become a vital, constructive and respected force within San Diego County. Lawyers Club's members have been appointed to the federal and state courts, have served in elected office, and have led the San Diego County Bar Association and other specialty bar associations.

Lawyers Club serves its membership and the community by sponsoring monthly luncheon programs; an annual Women's Resource Fair providing legal, medical and social services for indigent, homeless and battered women and their children; twice-annual Read-In programs at a local partner elementary school; and various community service projects. Lawyers Club, through its charitable foundation Fund for Justice, also provides grants to non-profit agencies whose work is consistent with the mission of Lawyers Club.

In addition, Lawyers Club sponsors projects designed to advance the status of women in the law and society. Lawyers Club conducts an annual Equality Survey that measures the status of women and minorities in the legal profession in San Diego by collecting data on the numbers of women and minorities employed in low-, mid- and high-level positions within law firms and public agencies. Lawyers Club has established a Balance Campaign, which identifies, develops and promotes the adoption and implementation of effective alternative employment policies and practices that encourage and enable the hiring, advancement and retention of women in the San Diego legal community. Lawyers Club also has established a Diverse Women's Task Force, which identifies, works to resolve and raise awareness of the particular challenges faced by women of color in the legal profession.

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Description of Program: Pipeline to Leadership: Securing Spots on Boards and Commissions

Lawyers Club's Leadership Development Committee sponsored a leadership training program, "Pipeline to Leadership: Securing Spots on Boards and Commissions," on Oct. 14, 2010, drawing more than 50 attendees to an evening workshop for women and men interested in taking leadership roles locally and beyond.

The Leadership Development Committee, chaired by Lawyers Club board members Jodi Cleesattle and Johanna Schiavoni, planned and organized every aspect of the program – planning the agenda, recruiting the speakers, securing a host sponsor, coordinating the event logistics and networking reception, preparing all promotional materials, preparing a bound set of written materials for program attendees, and preparing a directory of more than 100 local boards and commissions for program attendees. To increase the marketing of the event and reach a wider audience, Lawyers Club secured the co-sponsorship of Run Women Run, a political action committee that seeks to inspire, identify, mentor and support qualified pro-choice San Diego women who run for office or seek appointed government positions, and Junior League of San Diego, an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. However, Lawyers Club was solely responsible for all of the event planning.

The program, which cost \$10 for Lawyers Club, Run Women Run and Junior League members and for students, and \$15 for non-members, provided 1.0 hour of MCLE credit. The program, which ran from 6 to 8 p.m. at the offices of host sponsor DLA Piper, LLP, kicked off with a networking reception with wine and hors d'oeuvres.

The program generated \$640.00, all of which constituted revenue for Lawyers Club because the host sponsor provided the event space and reception refreshments at no charge. Another sponsor, Latham & Watkins LLP, provided the copying services for the program's written materials and directory.

The program began with a presentation on training for board service by Linda Sweeney, executive director of Corporate Directors Forum, a non-profit organization that provides education and training to help directors be better directors. A panel discussion followed with speakers from non-profit, corporate, business-related and government boards. Speakers included:

- **Barbara Bry**, founder of Run Women Run and Athena and a board member of CONNECT, Planned Parenthood of San Diego & Riverside Counties, and the San Diego Jewish Women's Foundation;
- **Ashley Gardner**, executive director of the Women's History Museum and Education Center and a member and former chair of the San Diego County Commission on the Status of Women;

- **Julia Brown**, board member of biotech companies Tagraceut, Inc. and Labopharm, Inc., board member of Corporate Directors Forum and CONNECT, and board vice chair of the UCSD Foundation; and
- **Laurie Black**, member of the Centre City Development Corp, former commissioner for the San Diego Port District, and former board member of the San Diego Convention and Visitors Bureau and the San Diego County Regional Water Quality Control Board.

The panel discussed the process for obtaining appointments to serve on different types of boards; explained how corporate, non-profit and government boards differ; explored the variety of opportunities to serve on boards; and discussed the skills set needed and the liabilities involved in serving on boards. The panelists explained the importance of board service as a prerequisite for service in higher profile organizations and as valuable training for serving in elected offices. The panelists also shared their personal experiences in obtaining appointments and in serving on boards and discussed how board service has affected their careers and public profiles.

Each program attendee received a 45-page directory, researched and compiled by Lawyers Club's Leadership Development Committee, listing more than 100 local boards and commissions spanning 10 categories or issue areas: Arts & Culture, Charitable, Economic, Education, Environmental, Government Boards, Industry, Issue Advocacy, Leadership Development, and Think Tanks/Legal & Policy. The directory provided a description of each board and its mission as well as contact information and website addresses for each board.

In addition, each program attendee received a bound packet of written materials including speaker biographies and selected articles, including "What should I know before joining a nonprofit board? Questions prospective board members should ask" and "Research to do before joining a board."

Lawyers Club received extremely favorable feedback following the program, with attendees commenting that the program was "fantastic," "very informative," and "a most informative and rewarding evening." The Leadership Development Committee likely will sponsor a similar program in years that it is not sponsoring its Political Boot Camp, a daylong workshop for women and men interested in running for office.

Attached are copies of advance articles that promoted the Political Boot Camp, an article published in Lawyers Club News about the event, and the written materials distributed at the event. Should additional information be needed, please contact Jodi Cleesattle at [jodi.cleesattle@doj.ca.gov](mailto:jodi.cleesattle@doj.ca.gov) or (619) 665-6710.