



**HEATHER FERBERT
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CITY OF SAN DIEGO**

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**CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE CELEBRATES HEILY HERNANDEZ,
RECIPIENT OF THE SDCBA SERVICE TO DIVERSITY AWARD**

SAN DIEGO – The San Diego City Attorney's Office proudly celebrates Senior Chief Deputy City Attorney Heily Hernandez, recipient of the 2025 Service to Diversity Award from the San Diego County Bar Association (SDCBA). The award will be presented at the SDCBA's Annual Awards Ceremony and Celebration of Service on Thursday, May 15, 2025, recognizing outstanding contributions to advancing equity, inclusion, and access to justice in the legal profession.

With over 17 years of service in the Criminal and Community Justice Divisions, Hernandez has established herself as a transformative leader, mentor, and advocate for meaningful diversity in the legal system. She currently serves as Chief of the Prosecution Operations Unit, overseeing the daily operations of multiple units and leads the team that has played a central role in implementing significant statewide reforms, such as Race Blind Charging.

Beyond her leadership role, Hernandez is deeply committed to mentoring the next generation of legal professionals. She has led the effort to revitalize the Office's New Deputy Training Program, modernizing its curriculum to emphasize ethics, engagement, and hands-on learning. Her vision and dedication to training were recognized by California Attorney General Rob Bonta, who honored her in January 2024 for her contributions to legal education and professional development.

Hernandez is also actively involved at college and law school recruitment events and continues to shape a more inclusive legal pipeline by mentoring attorneys, interns, and students. She was recently recognized by a Thomas Jefferson law student for helping to open critical doors through mentorship and connection to professional networks.

In the broader community, Hernandez gives her time as a mock trial coach for the San Diego High School Mock Trial Program and serves in executive leadership for Latinas in the Law, an organization advancing professional development and opportunity for Latinas across the legal field.

"Heily's work not only strengthens our commitment to justice but helps ensure that the legal profession better reflects the diverse communities we serve." said City Attorney Heather Ferbert. "She leads with integrity, lifts others as she rises, and sets a great example for the legal community. We are incredibly proud to see her honored with this well-deserved award."

The Service to Diversity Award recognizes a legal professional who has taken intentional steps to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion in the legal workplace, improved access to justice for historically underserved communities, and worked to dismantle systemic barriers in the profession.

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