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PRESS RELEASE

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CITY ATTORNEY HEATHER FERBERT RETAKES THE ATTORNEY'S OATH ALONGSIDE SAN DIEGO'S BENCH AND BAR

SAN DIEGO – Today, San Diego City Attorney Heather Ferbert joined attorneys, judges, law students, and legal professionals from across the region at the San Diego Central Courthouse for the San Diego County Bar Association's (SDCBA) Law Day Renewing Oath Ceremony — a public recommitment to the rule of law, judicial independence, and the integrity of the legal profession.

The ceremony was led by Presiding Judge Michael Groch of the Superior Court of the County of San Diego, who guided members of the bench and bar through a symbolic retaking of the attorney's oath, and concluded with remarks by Chief Judge Cynthia Beshant of the United States District Court for the Southern District of California. The event drew legal professionals at every stage of their careers, from seasoned practitioners to law students awaiting their February Bar Exam results, which are expected later this evening.

"The oath isn't a formality — it's a line in the sand," said **City Attorney Heather Ferbert**. "I took it nearly two decades ago, and I meant every word then. Today I meant them even more. When courts are pressured, when lawyers are targeted, and when the independence of the legal profession is treated as negotiable, the answer is to stand up and say: not here, not on our watch."

"The Rule of Law means that no one is above the law and it protects everyone equally. Our individual liberties are fragile, and are only preserved within a structure that enforces rights fairly and consistently. We rely on our courts to be that system, and depend on our judges to be able to perform their jobs free of pressure and coercion from the public and other branches of government. Individuals must believe their rights will be defended by judges and lawyers in a forum where justice is impartial," said **Timothy G. Williams, President of the San Diego County Bar Association**.

The City Attorney's Office participated as a community partner for the event, which was part of a national Law Day of Action. More than 40 cities held similar ceremonies on the same day, including Los Angeles, Chicago, Washington, D.C., and San Francisco.

Deans from California Western School of Law, Thomas Jefferson School of Law, and the University of San Diego School of Law were also in attendance, welcoming the next generation of attorneys into a profession that celebrated, today, what it means to do this work with integrity.

As San Diego joins cities across the country in marking Law Day, the message from today's ceremony is clear: the legal profession stands united in its commitment to the Constitution, to the courts, and to the people they serve.

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