



San Diego City Attorney Mara W. Elliott



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Contact: Leslie Wolf Branscomb at
lawolf@sandiego.gov or (619) 533-5896

Chief Deputy City Attorney Wins Diversity Award

Ken So honored for leadership by San Diego Bar Association

City Attorney Mara W. Elliott announced today that Chief Deputy City Attorney Ken So has been selected as one of the San Diego County Bar Association's Service Award winners for 2022.

So will receive the Bar Association's Service to Diversity Award at a ceremony Friday afternoon.

He joined the City Attorney's Office in 1996 and is a Chief Deputy City Attorney for the Civil Advisory division, which advises the Mayor and City Council. In September 2019, he became the Chief Diversity Officer at the City Attorney's Office, leading the Committee for Diversity & Inclusion. City Attorney Elliott created the Office's first Chief Diversity Officer position shortly after taking office in 2016. The position has grown more meaningful since the murder of George Floyd and as our nation grapples with unresolved and significant issues pertaining to race and equity. So was also the first chairperson of the Office's Racial Equity Task Force.

The Committee regularly puts on educational panels, webinars, gatherings, movies, luncheons, and other activities aimed at raising awareness, building equity, and fostering an inclusive environment at the City Attorney's Office.

"We are extremely fortunate to have Ken So as a colleague," City Attorney Mara W. Elliott said. **"His unwavering enthusiasm and commitment to diversity and inclusion in our office has brought us together and helped us bridge the social and cultural divisions that are often unconsciously ingrained in our thoughts and behaviors."**

Under So's leadership, the Diversity Committee has hosted a panel discussion with LGBTQ+ leaders in the local legal community; held office-wide luncheons to celebrate Black History Month, Hispanic Heritage Month, API Heritage Month, and Native American History Month with lectures, food, and music; provided employees with informational material to aid in understanding nonbinary, cisgender, and other gender identities; held "Diversi-Tea" gatherings with activities to help employees get to know each other better; organized book club discussions that addressed current issues of race and culture; and created a training curriculum for Office staff that includes implicit bias training, among other engaging activities.

“To me, diversity and inclusion means creating a sense of connectedness, community, and understanding. Our Office’s Committee for Diversity & Inclusion promotes these objectives by organizing cultural, educational, and other impactful events,” So wrote about the Committee’s goals. **“We are committed to increasing awareness of key issues affecting our diverse communities in creative and inclusive ways.”**

The San Diego County Bar Association’s annual Service Awards celebrate the contributions and commitment of remarkable individuals and organizations serving both the San Diego legal community and the public. Winners are nominated by their peers and selected by the SDCBA’s Awards Committee, with approval of the SDCBA board of directors.

“Lawyers are in a unique position to give back to our community,” SDCBA President David Majchrzak said. **“This year’s eight honorees are paragons of service who continuously go above and beyond to make the lives of others a little bit brighter every day. We are all richer for it.”**

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