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EEKING TRUTH, FREEDOM, AND JUSTICE

FOR ALL, Santa Barbara Women

Lawyers (SBWL), a network of women

legal professionals advocating gender

equality and community service, held their

annual dinner on December 14th at the Santa

Barbara Club.

“The event was both meaningful and

beautiful,” shared Joyce Dudley, Santa

Barbara District Attorney and the event’s

Honoree. “Seeing my family and friends,

listening to the generous testimonials made

by those who worked with me over the past

25 years, and being able to research and share

my thoughts on where to go from here were

some highlights for me.”

The VIP reception included cocktails and

dinner with guest speaker Justin Connolly,

Director of Southern California at Human

Rights Watch, discussed sexual assault in the

military.

Santa Barbara District Attorney Joyce

Dudley was presented with the 2015 Deborah

M. Talmage Attorney of the Year Award

by

Commissioner Deborah Talmage.

“I am deeply honored to be receiving

this award,” Dudley related. “Deborah was

a caring catalyst as both a Deputy DA and a

Commissioner. Last night the room was full

of extraordinary attorneys; the fact that I was

chosen is a bit mind boggling.”

The annual award honors an outstanding

legal professional who is dedicated to the

advancement and success of women, mentors

her colleagues and other women, personifies

professional excellence and commitment to

the highest level of ethics, and has shown a

commitment to the community.

Dudley has prosecuted crimes committed

against women and children for over 25

years. Her philosophy has always been that

their first encounter with the DA’s office

should be the beginning of their healing

process and for that to occur prosecutions

must be an ethical search for the truth,

seeking to ensure justice for all.

Proud of her efforts at

“Building bridges

within our offices, law enforcement, the

criminal justice system, and our community,”

Dudley noted, “We are all in this together

and the only way for us to ensure that

the public remains safe and justice is

omnipresent is for us to work together.”

At the conclusion of the dinner, Senator

Hannah-Beth Jackson swore in the 2016

Board of Directors of the SBWL Association.

“It was very exciting for me to watch and

listen to the ‘founding mothers’ as well as

Santa Barbara’s up and coming new woman

lawyers. Our community is blessed to have

both,” Dudley explained.

Proceeds were donated to the Legal

Aide Foundation of Santa Barbara County’s
domestic violence program.

SBWL is a non-profit organization that promotes
the diverse interests of women lawyers in Santa
Barbara. Through mentor and educational
programs, SBWL strives to positively impact new
attorneys, law students, and prospective legal
scholars throughout the county. For info visit
www sbwl org