



The ROTARY CLUB of La Jolla *News Bulletin*

8-27-24

Coming on Tuesday Sept 3rd, Dana Sabraw,
Chief United States district judge for
the Southern District of California, on
*“The federal judiciary and its operations in
the Southern District of California”*



Judge Dana Makato Sabraw was appointed to the **United States District Court** in 2003, where he currently serves as **Chief Judge**.

He received his undergraduate degree from San Diego State University, and thereafter attended McGeorge School of Law at the University of the Pacific, where he graduated in 1985 in the top 10% of his class and served on the Law Review.

Before his appointment, Judge Sabraw practiced law as a commercial litigator with **Baker & McKenzie** in San Diego, gaining partnership in 1992.

He has said it was his experience with litigation and being in court that led him to seek a judgeship. These experiences gave him a deep appreciation for the legal system and the effort to administer justice, causing him to choose to give up a lucrative career in private practice and instead, seek out public service as a judge.

In 1995, at the age of 37, he was appointed to San Diego's North County Municipal Court, by **Governor Pete Wilson**. He served as **Presiding Judge of the Municipal Court** until his elevation to the Superior Court in 1998, where he served as **Criminal Supervising Judge** and as a criminal and civil trial judge until his appointment to the federal bench in 2003, by **President George W Bush**. As a trial lawyer and judge, Judge Sabraw has tried more than 300 cases to verdict.

As a judge, he has received numerous awards from the community and bar associations, including **Outstanding Jurist by the San Diego County Bar Association (2019)**, **Judge of the Year by La Raza Lawyers Association of San Diego (2019)**, **Humanitarian of the Year by Casa Cornelia Law Center (2019)**, **Judge of the Year by Consumer Trial Attorneys of San Diego (2019)**, and **the Bernard E. Witkin Award for Excellence in the Adjudication of the Law (2023)**, among others

In 2018, *The San Diego Union-Tribune* named Sabraw its "**San Diego Person of the Year**" for his order ending the Trump administration's family separation policy, stating that Sabraw's ruling "ended a shameful chapter in our country's history" and adding: "His honest, thoughtful oversight of a complex case shouldn't be forgotten."



Please RSVP to Natasha Vossen's email re: our next luncheon on September 3rd, nataschavossen@san.rr.com

August 27th Meeting Highlights:



President Barbara Brown opened the meeting, and



Claire Reiss led the Pledge of Allegiance and for inspiration led us in *The Lord's Prayer*.

Guests:

Jane Reldan reintroduced her student, from UCSD Medical School, **Donya Mazdeyasnan**. Donya told us she is now studying Internal Medicine and loves it



Claire Reiss introduced her good friend who often attends Mary Star of the Sea with her.



Talyssa d'Avila our Rotary applicant has attended her third meeting and has already participated in Operation Gratitude last week. She was accompanied by her sponsor, Cindy Goodman.

Happy Bucks \$\$\$:

Jane Reldan was happy upon her return from her annual helicopter hiking trip in Canada, where she received both a cap and jacket in reward for her endurance on the trip. She contributed **\$100.00**

Announcements:

President Barbara Brown noted the following:

1. We will have another **Social** for the last Tuesday in September, **September 24th**. **John Donaldson and his wife, Karin** have graciously volunteered to host the Social. Put it on your calendars now.
2. The La Jolla Golden Triangle Rotary Club has invited Rotarians from District 5340 to attend their VOCATIONAL SERVICE BUSINESS MIXER at the UCSD Faculty Club Lounge on Thursday, September 5, 2024, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.



Mark your Calendars!

Community Service at the Neil Ash USO Airport Center

Sept 24th where we will serve 100 Marines!



Denise McGuire announced our **First Community Service event** for the year will be **servicing 100 young marines' lunch** at the USO Airport. The Marines will be arriving at Lindbergh Field beginning at 7am on the 24th, on their way to receive further education at Camp Pendleton.

While they relax at the USO, we will greet them, provide lunch for them and have an opportunity to meet and talk with them.



All Rotarians and volunteers are welcome! We will arrive at 10:30 AM, set up lunch and begin serving at 11:30 am. By 1:30 or 2, PM these young recruits will be picked up by buses to travel to Camp Pendleton for their next training assignment.

The *USO Neil Ash Airport Center* is the largest USO in the World. It is located adjacent to and east of Terminal Two. Parking is across the street and will be free

to all who help out. We need committed volunteers! **Please**, contact Denise, at denisemcguire@mac.com to sign up for the event ASAP.

Our Speaker Last Week



Michael Semanchik, Executive Director of the Innocence Center on “How Technology Aided in Recent Releases/Exonerations”

Bob Teaff introduced our speaker, **Michael Semanchik, Executive Director of the Innocence Center**

Mr. Semanchik stated there are several causes of wrongful convictions in the California Court System. They include:

- A. Government misconduct
- B. Ineffective assistance of counsel
- C. False confessions
- D. Eyewitness misidentification
- E. Cross racial identification

Government misconduct occurs when the government through law enforcement or prosecutors fail to disclose important exonerating facts to the defense or when they introduce erroneous facts into proceedings.

A second cause is when, defense counsel fails to adequately prepare a case for trial and fails to introduce exonerating information because of inadequate research.

False confessions occur when police “intimidate” accused individuals or lie to them about information, such as “we have your DNA” which they are allowed to do!

Eyewitness misidentification occurs most often when there is a time lapse between the time of the crime and the identification. It turns out that when a witness is first asked to identify a suspect from a photo lineup, they are only about 40% likely to be accurate. Once they have made a “false identification”, they are likely to be certain the next time that they made the “correct” identification based on familiarity with the picture they originally misidentified.

He also noted that many prosecution offices today including **the San Diego District Attorney’s Office** have, for the last 10 years, had Conviction Review Units which also investigate claims of actual innocence.



Coming in two Weeks, September 10th The City of San Diego Pure Water Project



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