

# District Attorney Joyce Dudley Receives Attorney of the Year Award

By Olivia Davi / CASA

**S**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."



LA District Attorney **Jackie Lacey**, Santa Barbara District Attorney **Joyce Dudley**, and Stanford Professor **Joan Peterscilla**

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.sbwls.org](http://www.sbwls.org)