

Fil-Am Lawyers of SD Past President Appointed to Board of National Fil-Am Organization

SAN DIEGO, CA, -- December 15, 2015 -- Local attorney and Filipino American leader, Melissa J. Deleon, has been appointed as a 2016 Governor At Large to the National Filipino American Lawyers Association (NFALA.) Deleon is an attorney at San Diego's oldest plaintiffs' personal injury firm, Casey Gerry Schenk Francavilla Blatt & Penfield, LLP. Deleon has served on the board of the Filipino American Lawyers of San Diego (FALSD) for five years, including two terms as FALSD President.

"We are proud that Melissa is representing FALSD and the local Filipino-American community on a national level," said Jonah Toleno, current president of FALSD and partner at Shustak, Reynolds & Partners, PC. "I am proud to have had the distinct privilege of following in Melissa's footsteps as President of FALSD and alongside her in her leadership capacity on a national level in NFALA. Melissa is an unwavering asset to the FALSD, NFALA and legal community."

Deleon is a first generation Filipino-American and native San Diegan. Since her admission to the State Bar of California she has represented individuals in personal injury and wrongful death cases. Earlier this year, she joined CaseyGerry, LLP, where she continues to advocate on behalf of injury victims, and is a member of the firm's aviation team, focusing on cases involving aircraft crashes and aircraft defects.

After being elected to the FALSD board in 2010, Deleon served as president of FALSD in 2013 and was re-elected for a second term as president in 2014. During her tenure as president, she organized annual book drives to benefit BKP-California, a



Atty. Melissa J. Deleon

nonprofit organization that builds libraries and promotes reading culture in the Philippines, and spearheaded fundraisers to support Filipino and diverse students. She also helped to facilitate numerous collaborative events between FALSD and local Fil-Am groups.

Committed to increasing diversity in the legal profession, Deleon will serve as the 2016 Chair of San Diego County Bar Association's Ethnic Relations & Diversity Committee. She is a director on the Filipino American Chamber of Commerce and was an appointed member of the Philippine Honorary Consulate of San Diego's advisory council.

Deleon was named to the San Diego Daily Transcript's Top Young Attorneys List in 2010, 2013 and 2014.

She received the "Young Influential" Award in 2014, recognizing San Diego's up and coming leaders, and San Diego Business Journal's "Emerging Leaders" Award in 2015, awarded to San Diego's top 25 leaders in their 20's. She is also a 2014 recipient of San Diego County Bar Association's prestigious service award in the category of "Outstanding Service By a Young Attorney."

The National Filipino American Lawyers Association's mission is to promote and advance Filipino-American legal professionals nationwide and support the efforts of local

Filipino-American bar associations. Earlier this

year, Deleon represented FALSD at the National Filipino American Lawyers Association midyear conference in Nevada, assisting NFALA leaders in identifying the organization's 2016 and long-term goals. The 2016 NFALA conference will be held in San Diego.

ABOUT Filipino American Lawyers of San Diego

Filipino American LAWYERS OF San Diego is a non-profit organization committed to ensuring that Filipino American and diverse attorneys have access to equal access in the legal profession. FALSD seeks to advocate the interests of the Filipino American community, develop multicultural solutions and sustain multicultural coalitions in all channels of the legal system.