

SAN DIEGO LAWYER®

SD
CBA
SAN DIEGO COUNTY
BAR ASSOCIATION

SERVICE AWARDS 2020



Outstanding Attorney
**Sharon
Blanchet**



Outstanding Jurist
**Hon. Gale
Kaneshiro (Ret.)**



*Community Service
Commissioner*
Pennie McLaughlin



Community Service
**Rob
Shields**



Service to Diversity
**Bhashini
Weerasinghe**



Service by a Public Attorney
**Rosalina
Spencer Leon**



Service to the Legal Community
**Valerie
Garcia Hong**



Outstanding Service by a New Lawyer
**Catherine
Asuncion**

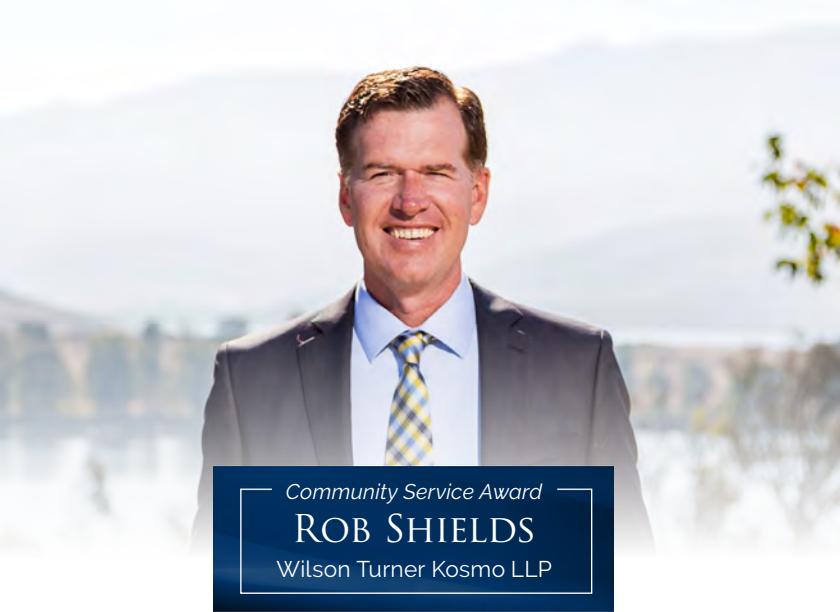


Distinguished Organization
**Jewish
Family
Service**

PLUS | The Criminal Justice System and Its Relationship to Race
| Keeping Your Genome to Yourself
| Volunteering as a Legal Observer



Community Service Award
COMMISSIONER PENNIE McLAUGHLIN
San Diego Superior Court



Community Service Award
ROB SHIELDS
Wilson Turner Kosmo LLP

Why do you serve?

There is a great need in many communities for help to reduce the struggle for people day to day. I believe it all begins with having an awareness of the different obstacles people face and the continuous question of how we can solve the problems and bring some portion of struggle to an end.

Who inspires you to serve?

Judge Ipema and the other leaders of the National Association of Women Judges have greatly inspired me. My inspiration also comes from seeing something that needs fixing and believing in the possibilities of what we can do together.

What advice would you give others to inspire them to serve?

My main advice is that you do have time. No matter how busy you are or how many things you are juggling, you would be surprised at what your contribution can add to the collective effort.

Your favorite quote?

"True peace is not just the absence of tension, but the presence of justice." — Martin Luther King Jr.

In what ways does serving the wider community benefit the legal profession?

The possibilities for change and for good are wide-ranging, and when attorneys and judges pitch in together, we make a difference. For example, when Judge Terrie Roberts and I hosted the first NAWJ inmate jail book club in 2015, the women's remarks brought tears to our eyes. They expressed such profound gratitude that we found them worthy enough to buy them books and then spend our personal time on a Thursday night with them. Through these efforts, by serving our community, we are viewed through a better lens and people often come to realize the importance of all of the good that attorneys contribute along with the judiciary.

The SDCBA's Law Day theme this year is "Your Vote, Your Voice, Our Democracy: The 19th Amendment at 100." What does this mean to you in your work and in your daily life?

I believe that every day we should work to inspire people to take a stake in their communities, to stand up and be counted. One way to accomplish this is for each person to exercise his or her right to vote and help elect leaders into positions that will bring about the changes and improvements we seek to better the lives of everyone.

Why do you serve?

My Christian faith moves me to look to the interests of others. I try to love as I have been loved, and be generous with my time and resources because I have been blessed. But, the primary reason I serve is because it's fun.

Who inspires you to serve?

My wife, Cheryl, inspires me to serve others. She walks the walk. Since our triplets were born 17 years ago, Cheryl has worked full time (as a volunteer) serving others in our community. She is constantly on the lookout for people to support and encourage.

Your favorite quote?

"There is no limit to the amount of good you can do if you don't care who gets the credit." — Ronald Reagan

In what ways does serving the wider community benefit the legal profession?

The legal profession and its lawyers were once portrayed positively as Perry Mason or *To Kill a Mockingbird's* Atticus Finch, seeking the truth. The perception today is that lawyers' only pursuit is victory at all costs. Engaging with the San Diego community through public service will hopefully change the public's perception of lawyers to be true servants. Serving the wider community also reminds those in the legal profession that there's more to life than work, and that often more good can be accomplished while out in the community than in the courtroom.

The SDCBA's Law Day theme this year is "Your Vote, Your Voice, Our Democracy: The 19th Amendment at 100." What does this mean to you in your work and in your daily life?

The theme suggests that for democracy to work, each vote and every voice must be heard, regardless of whether we agree with that opinion, voice, or vote. Democracy is predicated on our collective, but different, votes and voices. To cancel or shame individuals in a free society for holding a disagreeable belief undermines our democracy and further divides us as a nation. Moreover, it stunts our ability to learn from each other.