



# San Diego City Attorney Jan I. Goldsmith

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **CITY ATTORNEY JAN GOLDSMITH RECIPIENT OF PRESTIGIOUS LEGAL AWARD**

**San Diego, CA:** San Diego City Attorney Jan Goldsmith was the honored recipient of the Bernie Siegan Award for Outstanding Achievement in Constitutional Scholarship at the Federalist Society annual dinner on January 14th. The award was presented to honor the memory of the legendary Professor Siegan who was both the scholar and well known author in the legal community with a voice for property rights and economic liberty. City Attorney Goldsmith was presented with the award and his name was added to the plaque that will be displayed at the University San Diego School of Law. Goldsmith has served as an Adjunct Professor at USD Law School.

Past recipients of the Bernie Siegan Award include Edward Meese, Kenneth Starr and Federal Court of Appeals Justice John Clifford Wallace.

The Federalist Society for Law and Public Policy Studies is founded on the principles that the state exists to preserve freedom, that the separation of governmental powers is central to our Constitution, and that it is emphatically the province and duty of the judiciary to say what the law is, not what it should be. The Society seeks both to promote an awareness of these principles and to further their application through its activities.

In accepting the award, Goldsmith spoke of Federalist Paper No. 78, written by Alexander Hamilton, in which he discussed how an independent judiciary is essential for the protection of individual rights. Hamilton argued that judges should be free to exercise their independent legal judgment, but should not be swayed by political will. "Whether we agree or disagree with a particular judicial decision, we must defend with our last breadth the power of judicial independence on the law," said Goldsmith. "As Hamilton stated, absent an independent judiciary our individual rights would amount to nothing."

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