Justice & Diversity Center’s Annual Gala Raises More Than $360,000 For Legal and Diversity Programs in Bay Area

Over 400 members of the legal community were in attendance to celebrate the work of the Justice & Diversity Center (JDC) of the Bar Association of San Francisco on September 27 at JDC’s Annual Gala.

The gala raised more than $360,000 to support the Pro Bono Legal Services Program, Homeless Advocacy Project, Immigrant Legal Defense Program, and Diversity Educational Programs including Law Academy and the Bay Area Minority Law Student Scholarship program.

This year’s gala co-chairs, David Kelly, chief legal officer, Golden State Warriors, and Sara Finigan, co-managing partner, Coblentz Patch Duffy & Bass, set the tone for the evening by sharing their personal commitment to JDC’s work.

“Justice means to me fairness and equality,” said Kelly, “But fairness is based on one’s perspective. So, you can’t have a full perspective unless you have diversity. If you don’t have all the perspectives represented, then you will never have justice.”

Kitty Zeng, a high school student who is part of Law Academy and spent her summer working as a fellow at the Bar Association of San Francisco, shared her experiences next. From learning about different types of law to participating in meetings, Zeng sharpened her communication and public speaking skills this summer. In addition, Zeng noted that she learned the power of paying it forward: “I want to be someone who gives back because I know what it’s like to not have much and how it feels when someone helps you out,” she said.

The evening ended with a dance party with DJ D Sharp, DJ to the Golden State Warriors.

To see more photos from the gala, visit the JDC Facebook page. For those not able to attend the gala, hear the guest speakers’ stories first-hand and watch the videos at www.sfbar.org/gala.
BASF/JDC Executive Director Yolanda Jackson addresses guests at the 2018 annual Gala

all photos by Jim Block

JDC Gala speaker and Law Academy student Kitty Zeng

Anne Fokstuen

JDC Gala co-chairs David Kelly, Golden State Warriors, and Sara Finigan, Coblentz Patch Duffy & Bass

From left, BASF/JDC executive director Yolanda Jackson, BASF board member Lisa Mak, Minami Tamaki; and Barristers Club board member Anjali Kulkarni, Duane Morris

JDC Gala speaker Su Yan Yu
BASF board member David Tsai, Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman

From left, BASF past president Chris Kearney and JDC board member Alicia Gámez

From left, JDC’s Samantha Akwei, JDC board member Jee Young You, Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer; and JDC’s Gloria Chun

From left, BASF/JDC president Malcolm A. Heinicke, Alison Karol, Dane Shikman, and Adam Kaplan, all of Munger, Tolles & Olson

Hon. Haywood Gilliam, U.S. District Court, Northern District of California and Chuck Shimada, Morgan, Lewis & Bockius

From left, David Kelly, Kevin Nichols, and Erik Scales