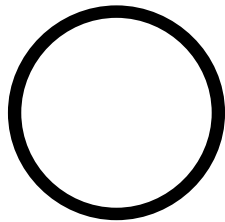


Justice & Diversity Center's Annual Gala

Raises More Than \$360,000

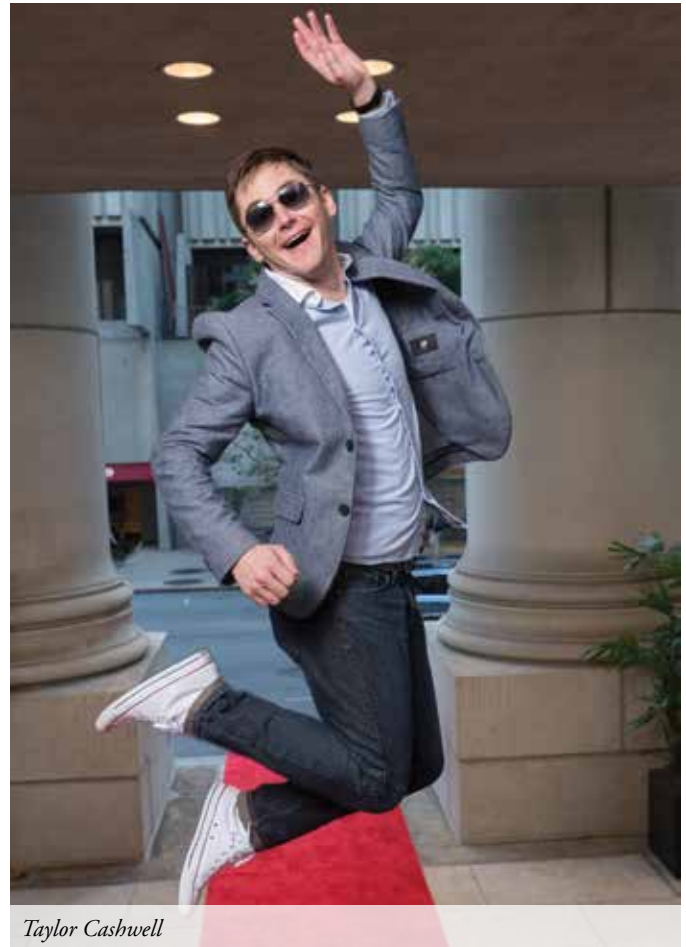
to Support Pro Bono and Diversity Programs in Bay Area

Steve Love



Over 400 members of the legal community, representing more than ninety firms and legal departments, were in attendance to celebrate the work of the Justice & Diversity Center (JDC) of The Bar Association of San Francisco on September 28 at JDC's Annual Gala. The Gala filled the Bently Reserve as guests celebrated the fortieth anniversary of JDC's work in the community. The gala raised more than \$360,000 to support the Pro Bono Legal Services Program, the Homeless Advocacy Project (HAP), and Diversity Educational Programs including School-To-College (STC), the Bay Area Minority Law Student Scholarship Program, and Law Academy.

This year's Gala cochairs, David Kelly, JDC board member and general counsel and vice president for basketball legal affairs, Golden State Warriors, and Roxane Polidora, managing partner of Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman's San Francisco office, set the tone for the evening by sharing their personal commitment to JDC's work.



Taylor Cashwell

photos by Jim Block



BASF/JDC Executive Director Yolanda Jackson



*Gala Cochair
David Kelly*



BASF/JDC President Merri Baldwin



From left, Jessica Bogo, Colin Kemp, Stacie Kinser, Gala Cochair Roxane Polidora, and Joshua Ridless

Highlights of the evening included a drawing for a signed and authenticated Golden State Warriors basketball and two guest speakers, both JDC clients, who inspired the crowd.

The first speaker put a human face on San Francisco’s housing crisis. After thirty years as building maintenance manager, a position for which he received no pay beyond his rent-free apartment, the new owners told Mike he was “obsolete” and served him with an eviction notice. At risk of becoming homeless, he approached HAP for help. HAP was able to save his apartment at an affordable rent, secure a substantial settlement, and get Mike signed up for the social security benefits that were due to him.

The next speaker—a senior at Academy High School in San Francisco, showed incredible courage by addressing more than 400 adults. Originally from Brazil, Pedro is a competitive soccer player and active member of JDC’s School-To-College Program. Pedro came to this country as a freshman in high school. He had to adjust to a new culture, a new language, and a new school all in a very short period of time. With the help of STC Coordinator Alvaro Carvajal, he is now ready to apply to and attend a four-year university.



From left, Raul Gonzalez, Christine De Leo, Adriana Mendez, Gabriela Miranda, Jamal Jackson

Visit www.sfbar.org/gala to hear their stories firsthand.



Amani Solange Floyd



From left, Gala speaker Mike Kilpatrick and JDC's Anthony Prince



From left, Alicia Gámez and Steven Adair MacDonald



Mairi McKeever passes the gavel to her successor as JDC managing director, Gloria Chun



Charles and Melita Sun Jung



Marisa Chaves and Homaira Hosseini



Gala speaker Pedro Gomez-Mota

“I did not choose law, it chose me.”
—Adriana Mendez,
Minority Law Student
Scholarship Recipient



JDC board member Deborah Daniloff



Gordon Greenwood



From left, Kara Janssen, Devin Mauney, Brian Fraser, and Michael Nunez



From left, Judge Braden Woods and Kathleen Guthrie Woods



Jessica Bogo and Peter Catalanotti



Akasha Perez and Kayla Delgado



Judge Charles Crompton



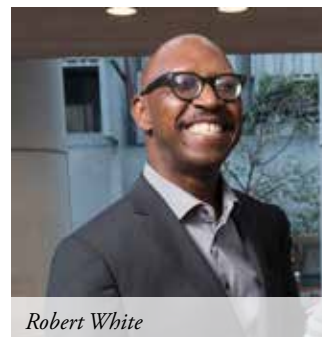
Jaclyn Grant and Michael Thomas



From left, Eric Gelwicks, Megan Cesare-Eastman, Victoria Weatherford, and Gabriela Kipnis

“On JDC’s 40th anniversary, we take pride in being named this year’s Gala cochair – a true honor and a testament to our shared values and goals”

—Pillsbury



Robert White



Petra DeJesus



From left, Jillian Green, Robert Romero, Radhika Thanedar, and Maria Quintero



Gala Cochair David Kelly



Lara Villareal Hutner and Lauren Cooper



JDC Board Member Blair Walsh and Adrian Canzoneri



Sarah Banola



Carla Tucker, Paul Henderson, Cecilia Horton-Williams, and Carlos Clark



JDC's Alvaro Carvajal, Gala speaker Pedro Gomez-Mota, and BASF/JDC President Merri Baldwin



Lucy Garcia, Adriana Mendez, David Casarrubias, Robert Hernandez, William Tran, and Ramon Becerra-Alcantar



Dorothy Lin, Abigail Lubow, David Tsai, Michael Angelo, and Aaron Tidman

“Lawyers know how to be watchful and vigilant. It's up to us to hold up the red flag when we see rights being encroached upon.”

—Janel Thamkul



Warren Metlitzky, Mark Conrad, BASF President-Elect Malcolm Heinicke, and BASF Board Member Marvin Anderson



Rosilda Perez and Brenda Rosales

“As a sponsor of the JDC Gala, Dolby celebrates the success of JDC programs and looks forward to continuing to grow our partnership”

—Dolby Laboratories



Alexander Gershen and Franklin Kang



Barristers Club Board Members Ben Feuer, Jessica Ryland, and Anjali Kulkarni with JDC’s William Ryland



Teresa Renaker and Margo Hasselman Greenough



Cari Cohorn and Kevin Pacotti



Jack Hamman and Frank Leidman



Inspector Antonio Flores and Karina Velazquez



Demetrius Shelton, BASF Board Member Marvin Anderson, and Kayla Sosa