

PRESS RELEASE

Discrimination "on Trial" at WAGE Forum

San Diego, CA - October 31, 2005 - California NOW (The California National Organization for Women) and WAGE (We Advocate Gender Equity) join forces to put discrimination on trial at the WAGE annual Fall Forum, which is co-sponsored by Shubhayan Industries, Inc. (a Beverly Hills based multinational company). The Forum will be held on Saturday, November 5, 2005, at the San Diego Malcolm X Library from noon to 5 p.m. The event is free and all members of the public are strongly encouraged to attend all or any portion of the Forum.

The Forum will feature presentations by state leaders in the fight against discrimination in the workplace. A press conference, moderated by the Forum leaders, will be held at the end of the program, which will be attended by Michael Aguirre, San Diego City Attorney, other prominent San Diego City leaders and prominent California political leaders. Notable invitees include, Senator Boxer, Senator Feinstein, Congresswoman Davis, Congressman Filner, Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez, Congresswoman Linda Sanchez, Congresswoman Woolsey, Los Angeles Mayor Villaraigosa, Candidate for Governor Phil Angelides, and San Diego Mayoral Candidate Donna Frye among others. Members of the media, San Diego legal community, and the student body and faculty of San Diego State University have also been invited to participate.

The Forum will feature a luncheon presentation, "Going Beyond Struggle to Victory," by the President of California NOW, Dr. Kimberly Slater. California NOW is the largest state organization of feminists in the United States. Dr. Slater will address the slow but incremental progress that women are making in the paid labor force. Dr. Slater, an organizational psychologist and long-time activist, was elected President of California NOW in July 2005.

Prominent Oakland civil rights attorneys, Anne Weills and Dan Siegel, will conduct a mock-trial following the luncheon. Weills and Siegel will make a dramatic presentation of opposing arguments from a real case involving claims of pay inequity, tenure denial, and sexual harassment at a well-known San Diego University. Attorneys Weills and Siegel, widely known for their active commitment to social justice and educational equity, have represented many successful clients in academic discrimination cases. Their success in the case of UC-Berkeley Professor Jenny Harrison led to the formation of WAGE in 1993.

"WAGE is pleased to bring such strong social justice advocates together to examine ways to truly achieve gender equity in academia and other work environments . . . participants will learn strategies to help them navigate their own work experiences . . ." stated WAGE Co-Chair Pat Washington.

Participants may elect to bring their own brown-bag lunch or pay for a catered luncheon buffet at the Forum, cash and major credit cards will be accepted.

The Malcolm X Library is located at 5148 Market Street, San Diego, CA 92114. All Malcolm X Library events are free and open to the public.

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