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[www.sdchamber.org](http://www.sdchamber.org)

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### CHAMBER CONVENES NEXT GENERATION OF BUSINESS LEADERS

*"Young Leaders" provides leadership experience for young professionals*

**SAN DIEGO (Jan. 21, 2016)** – The San Diego Regional Chamber has launched an initiative to identify and cultivate emerging business leaders. The Chamber's Young Leaders is open to young professionals ages 21 to 40, and is focused on driving young professional growth in the San Diego-Baja region by providing relationships, mentoring and community awareness necessary to becoming an influential business leader. Leading the group are Honorary Chairman Mark Kersey, San Diego City Councilmember; Board Chair, James Lawson, President of Presidio Public Affairs Group; and Vice-Chair, Star Huges-Gorup, Director of Hughes Marino.

"San Diego's young people are ready to engage in the issues that will create a strong business community," said Jerry Sanders, President and CEO of the San Diego Regional Chamber. "It speaks volumes that we received such an overwhelming response when we put out a call for membership. I think our Chamber Young Leaders will bring a fresh perspective to some of our region's challenges."

"It's an honor to chair the Chamber Young Leaders," stated Councilmember Kersey, who – twelve years ago – began his own small business in the tech industry. "As emerging professionals who plan to be in this City for many years to come, our voice will be incredibly valuable in shaping the economic development of our region."

Chamber Young Leaders is designed to provide a platform for young leaders to share their insights and unique professional perspectives, as well as foster professional growth. Guiding the group's activities are four pillars: professional development,

mentoring, regional activism/causes, and networking. The full membership will vote on two to three causes which will be their focus for the year.

Chamber Young Leaders will be governed by a Board of Directors, who were carefully selected through an application process based on participants' proven success as industry leaders and commitment to community involvement and professional growth. In total, the Council's membership consists of over 100 diverse, bi-partisan young professionals representing a wide variety of industries.

While membership for the Chamber Young Leaders' Board of Directors is closed for this year, applications for the general membership remain open. Individuals aged 21-40 who are interested in learning more or applying may do so at [www.sdchamber.org/sdyl](http://www.sdchamber.org/sdyl).

The Chamber Young Leaders will host its first meeting February 29<sup>th</sup> at Park & Rec in University Heights. A full roster of the Young Leaders Board of Directors is included on the following page.

#### **About The San Diego Regional Chamber**

The San Diego Regional Chamber is the hub for connections and collaboration among the regional business community, and uses that clout to advocate for public policies and candidates that support economic growth and the creation of jobs for all businesses. As the largest Chamber on the West Coast, representing approximately 2,500 businesses and an estimated 300,000 jobs, the San Diego Regional Chamber is fighting to make San Diego the most business-friendly region in California. For more information, please visit [SDChamber.org](http://SDChamber.org) or call 619-544-1300.

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## 2016 Chamber Young Leaders Board Members

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**Alex Bell**

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Union Bank

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Seltzer Caplan McMahon Vitek

**Alex Gould**

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City of San Diego

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