402 West Broadway, Suite 1000
San Diego, CA 92101-3585
p: 619.544.1300
www.sdchamber.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact:
Hayley Marting
559-514-1649
HMarting@SDChamber.org

Chamber Honors Regional Officials and Staff at Annual Legislative Lounge

Elected leaders took a night off from the dais for a lighthearted award ceremony and reception with 200 local changemakers.

SAN DIEGO (November 9, 2026) – The San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce presented five awards to regional elected officials and staff members from across the Cali-Baja region for their hard work to keep our communities moving forward at the annual Legislative Lounge. The event featured an award ceremony and a reception with 200 local changemakers.

PHOTOS HERE

Each Legislative Lounge winner was presented with a personalized caricature as their commemorative award. This year's Legislative Lounge awards are (click here to view caricature):

- Mission Possible - Christina Bibler, Director of Economic Development, City of San Diego
- Bridge Builder - Samahara Valenzuela, Binational Affairs Liaison, City of Tijuana
- Stepping Up in DC – Bill Kratz, Regional Director, U.S. Senator Adam Schiff
- Jedi of Imperial Beach – Councilmember Mariko Nakawatase, City of Imperial Beach
- Staffer Who Gets $h!t Done – Eli Lanet, Legislative Aide, Office of Asm. Darshana Patel

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“Behind every big win for our region is a public servant who rolled up their sleeves and got it done,” said **Chris Cate, President and CEO of the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce**. “Legislative Lounge is our chance to thank the elected officials, staff, and community leaders who keep the Cali-Baja region moving forward. We couldn’t do what we do without them.”

For more information or to set up an interview, please contact Hayley Marting at HMarting@sdchamber.org or 559-514-1649.

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About the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce

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 one of the largest local Chamber on the West Coast, representing nearly 2,000 businesses and an estimated 300,000 jobs, the San Diego Regional Chamber is working to champion business and empower leaders. For more information, please visit SDChamber.org or call 619-544-1300.