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## **KERRY STEIGERWALT NAMED ONE OF SAN DIEGO'S TOP 25 LAWYERS**

SAN DIEGO (MAY 11, 2009) – Prominent local attorney Kerry Steigerwalt has been named one of San Diego's Top 25 lawyers by San Diego Metropolitan Magazine

Steigerwalt, 52, the owner of Kerry Steigerwalt's Pacific Law Center was among a distinguished group of civil and criminal lawyers honored in the magazine's selection process.

According to the magazine:

“Chosen by a select panel of attorneys, judges and other professionals in the field of law who have keen insights into the legal world in San Diego, our ‘stars’ represent many disciplines of legal representation.”

Steigerwalt has built his practice through a commitment to providing access to justice for those in need of legal services regardless of budget or type of case. He is a familiar face to San Diegans through his successful criminal defense practice involving a string of high-profile cases. He was awarded an AV Peer Review rating from the Martindale Hubbell International Law Directory, placing him at the height of professional excellence as a lawyer.

Steigerwalt has been practicing law since 1984 and his achievements and expertise make him one of the most respected trial attorneys in San Diego. Steigerwalt has become a familiar figure on national radio and television, providing much sought-after insight on the law as well as major cases in the media. His television appearances include shows such as "48 Hours," "Court TV," "The O'Reilly Factor," and "Fox News." He also has been quoted as a legal expert in newspaper and magazine articles in publications including The Wall Street Journal, Newsweek and People Magazine.

His professional commentary has been a mainstay of many San Diego news media outlets on stories and issues dealing with the justice system. The media frequently has featured Steigerwalt as their legal analyst to provide guidance on notable cases such as the O.J. Simpson murder case and the Michael Jackson molestation trial. Steigerwalt also was a key in-studio analyst during coverage of one of San Diego's most notorious murders: David Westerfield's kidnapping and slaying of Sabre Springs neighbor Danielle van Dam. He is currently a commentator on the John Gardner double murder case. Steigerwalt also was profiled in the February, 2010 cover story of San Diego Metropolitan Magazine.

Steigerwalt has been recognized and active in numerous organizations and associations dedicated to fighting for the rights of injured victims as well as the criminally accused. His recognition as an authority in both civil and criminal law matters has been earned by his experience in over 100 jury trials. He has successfully defended hundreds of clients in cases ranging from drunken driving to death penalty cases and has won numerous acquittals in murder cases. Steigerwalt has also been honorably distinguished by receiving a "not guilty" verdict in every courthouse in the county of San Diego.

He also was designated by the San Diego Superior Court to form the Independent Contract Office, which provides legal representation for indigent minors, parents and/or guardians in Juvenile Court dependency hearings. As Administrating Attorney, he oversees about a dozen attorneys working on those cases.

Steigerwalt is a graduate of Millersville University in Pennsylvania and earned his law degree at the Thomas Jefferson School of Law in San Diego. He was a trial attorney in the San Diego Public Defender's Office for several years before forming his own private practice. In 2008 he merged his firm with Pacific Law Center to become managing partner of Kerry Steigerwalt's Pacific Law Center. He has since taken over as sole owner, heading a firm of approximately 100 employees, including lawyers, paralegals and support staff.

A La Jolla resident, Steigerwalt is married and has three children attending middle school, high school and college. An avid baseball fan, he has served as a volunteer coach and manager at the Tecolote Youth Baseball League.

Steigerwalt is a member of the State Bar of California, American Bar Association, Civil Justice Foundation, California Public Defenders Association, California Attorneys for Criminal Justice, San Diego Bar Association, Criminal Defense Bar Association and the Criminal Defense Lawyers Club. He is a former president of the San Diego Criminal Defense Bar Association.

His firm's primary focus areas are criminal defense, bankruptcy, home loan modification and personal injury cases. The firm is the largest filer of bankruptcy cases in Southern California.