



## City Attorney Dennis Herrera News Release

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### **Herrera takes the reins on new term**

*City Attorney's Office's efforts to protect San Francisco's working poor and middle class families 'have never been more important than they are today,' says Herrera*

SAN FRANCISCO (Jan. 8, 2014)—City Attorney Dennis Herrera was sworn in to a new term as San Francisco's chief civil lawyer this morning, with Chief Assistant City Attorney Jesse Capin Smith administering the oath of office at the office's standing senior staff meeting.

Herrera voiced familiar themes in taking the reins of his new term, expressing gratitude to his award-winning staff of nearly 300 legal professionals for their professionalism and nationally-recognized accomplishments. Noting that his office has long been at the forefront of legal efforts to protect consumers, neighborhoods, civil rights and the environment, Herrera credited the entire City Attorney's Office for one of his office's best-known recent legal victories—extending equal marriage rights to lesbian and gay couples in California—which saw a decisive victory in the U.S. Supreme Court last summer after nearly ten years of litigation.

But looking ahead, Herrera sees his office's work for San Francisco's middle class and working families are especially important in the coming years.

“So much of the unheralded work our office does is about protecting San Francisco's working poor and middle class families, and those efforts have never been more important than they are today,” said Herrera. “The cases we pursue involving wage theft and universal healthcare, protecting tenants and immigrants, consumers and low-income borrowers, fighting for City College's future and more—they're about defending San Franciscans who are being squeezed like never before. It's where our heart has always been as an office, and as we head into a new term, I intend for us to redouble our efforts to fight for those facing new and daunting economic challenges.”

Herrera's fourth term will be truncated to two-years as a result of a 2012 Charter amendment that consolidated odd-year Municipal Elections. Proposition D, which voters enacted on Nov. 6, 2012, changed the election cycle for the offices of City Attorney and Treasurer so that they will occur at

[MORE]

## City Attorney Dennis Herrera—Page 2

the same time as the offices of Mayor, Sheriff and District Attorney. Four year terms will resume for all municipal offices elected in 2015.

The American Bar Association recognized Herrera's office in 2007 with its prestigious Jefferson Fordham Law Office Accomplishment Award, which recognizes outstanding excellence in government law over a lifetime of achievement. Herrera was also recognized individually by the National Association of Consumer Advocates as the nationwide organization's Consumer Attorney of the Year in 2009. The office has been praised by *American Lawyer* magazine as "one of the most aggressive and talented city law departments in the nation," and has earned a nationwide reputation for its legal efforts over the years to protect consumers, fight public sector fraud and abuse, and advance civil rights protections.

High-resolution, all-rights-granted photos of the City Attorney's swearing-in are available on the City Attorney's website at: <http://www.sfcityattorney.org/>.

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