



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** March 10, 2017

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### **Dr. Laura L. Ciel Assumes Leadership of Santa Barbara County Psychological Association**

Santa Barbara, CA -- Licensed Clinical Psychologist Laura Ciel, Psy.D., has been elected president of the Santa Barbara County Psychological Association (SBCPA), a non-profit professional organization representing more than 175 psychologists, psychological assistants, and graduate students in psychology from Santa Barbara and the Santa Ynez Valley.

Dr. Ciel was elected in an online membership vote in January; her installation took place at the organization's Spring Gala at the Goodland Hotel in Goleta on March 10, 2017. Host of the former radio talk show, The Dr. Laura Ciel Show, Dr. Ciel holds a BA in Economics/Business from UCLA and masters' and doctoral degrees in Clinical Psychology from Pepperdine University. She has also completed leadership training with the internationally recognized Coaches Training Institute (CTI). In addition to working with patients privately and serving as a member of the medical staff at Ventura County Medical Center, Dr Ciel provides training in personal and professional development through seminars, online training programs and through leadership work with corporations, non-profits, and other organizations such as the SBIFF, GlaxoSmithKline and Shelterbox.

Also elected to the SBCPA was president-elect Dr. Ron Pilato, who will assume the helm of the organization in January 2018. Dr. Pilato chairs the doctoral program in Clinical Psychology at Antioch University Santa Barbara. He also serves on the core faculty of the university and teaches Mindful Based Stress Reduction in a program open to community members in Santa Barbara.

The 2017 SBCPA Board of Directors also includes:

Treasurer: Eric Nelson, Ph.D.

Secretary: Megan Donahue, Ph.D.

Student Representative: Allie Wroblewshi, M.Ed.

Past President: Kimberley Taylor, Psy.D.

“I look forward to serving our association and our community this year with the support of this board,” said Dr. Ciel. “My intention during my presidency is to support this professional community so that all psychologists and students want to be affiliated with it and recognize the value it offers. Secondly, my intention is to increase visibility and connection of this association, and the practice of psychology, so that anyone in the community who feels the need for psychological support knows where to turn for help.”

From its roots as an informal gathering of psychologists beginning in 1947, the SBCPA became an official chapter of the California Psychological Association in 1977. It is also affiliated with the American Psychological Association, a scientific professional association representing 117,500 researchers, educators, clinicians, consultants, and students.

The SBCPA provides community outreach and support, disaster response, professional education, ethics guidance, and collegial networking for psychology professionals. Its website, [www.sbcpa.org](http://www.sbcpa.org), provides education and guidance to the community and features a “Find a Psychologist” page that enables members of the public to match their needs to licensed clinical psychologists by specialty, region, and insurance type.

**Special note to the news media:** The SBCPA can quickly connect members of the news media with licensed professional psychologists who can speak on the emotional impact of breaking news or current events, or can provide expertise and perspective on a wide range of mental health issues, including anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, substance use disorders, autism, and gender identity issues. To access an online directory of psychologists and their specialties, go to “Find a Psychologist” at [www.SPCPA.org](http://www.SPCPA.org), or contact the media chair, Dr. Betsy Bates Freed, at (805) 979-3440 or [betsy@drbatesfreed.com](mailto:betsy@drbatesfreed.com).