

Tustin attorney new leader of Democratic Foundation

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After 17 years with **Wylie Aitken** at the helm, the **Democratic Foundation of Orange County** has a new leader today.

Tustin attorney **Dan Jacobson** was elected the new chairman of the foundation last night at the organization's annual membership dinner at the **Balboa Bay Club** in Newport Beach. More than 170 were on hand for the dinner, which honored the retiring Aitken and the late **Dick O'Neil**.

Jacobson, 50, may be familiar to **Orange County Register** readers for his involvement a year ago in [blowing the whistle on a little-known quasi-governmental agency that the newspaper exposed for its questionable practices](#). Jacobson was one of the loudest critics of the **California Insurance Guarantee Association**, for which he once was a board member. He and another former board member warned state officials about problems at the agency, which along with the Register's coverage, [led to a legislative hearing and a Department of Insurance investigation](#).

Today, in addition to his law practice, Jacobson teaches at the **Pacific West College of Law** in Orange and writes scholarly articles for law journals. He can barely contain his excitement about his new position.

"I see the role as chair as like the the role of a director of a play," he said in a telephone interview this morning. "It's not my job to make me shine. It's my job to make the players shine. And the players are the Democrats of Orange County."

Among those in attendance at last nights dinner were: State Senate **Lou Correa** of Santa Ana; Assembly members **Jose Solorio** of Santa Ana, **Hector De La Torre** of South Gate, **Dave Jones** of Sacramento, **Ted Lieu** of Torrance and **Fiona Ma** of San Francisco; Orange County Clerk-Recorder **Tom Daly**; San

Juan Capistrano City Council members **Mark Nielsen** and **Laura Freese**; Irvine City Council members **Larry Agran** and **Beth Krom**; Fullerton City Council members **Pam Keller** and **Sharon Quirk**; Orange City Council member **Tita Smith**; Tustin City Council member **Deborah Gavello**; and Rancho Santiago Community College District trustees **Brian Conley** and **John Hanna**. U.S. Rep. **Loretta Sanchez** was the MC.

Other Foundation officers elected Sunday evening were:

- Conley, vice chairman,
- **Steve Howard**, treasurer, and
- **Michelle Vo**, secretary.