

# Making a Difference Saturday, September 15, 2018 9:00 am – 10:15 am San Diego Ballroom A

Hon. Tamila E. Ipema, San Diego Superior Court Dr. Paul Sutton, Professor Emeritus, San Diego State Univ. Dr. Katrina VanderWoude, President of Contra Costa College



# The California Judges Association Annual Conference

September 14 - 16, 2018

A Guidebook of California Courts Community Outreach Programs for Judicial Officers

# **Alameda County**

#### Annual Adoption Day Celebration

November is Adoption and Permanency Month in California, a time when the focus is on efforts to provide permanent homes for children awaiting adoption. National Adoption Day is also celebrated in November, and courts and communities all around Alameda county hold special events and special adoption ceremonies for families. The Alameda County Superior Court is pleased to participate in these annual efforts by setting aside a special day in November for their judicial officers to volunteer to preside over numerous adoption finalization hearings. Although the Annual Adoption Day event is not open to the general public, it serves to strengthen our communities by reducing the amount of time children remain in the system awaiting permanent placement.

#### **Bench Speakers Bureau**

The Bench Speakers Bureau increases the public's understanding and knowledge of the judicial system. The program is composed of Alameda County judges, commissioners, and court staff who speak to community, education, faith based, government agencies, and other types of organizations. By utilizing the Bench Speakers Bureau, community groups may request that judges speak to them about issues of concern to the community, as well as how the judicial system works. This program provides the opportunity for school and community groups to meet with a judicial officer to ask questions and learn more about the trial court system.

For more information, contact: (510) 891-6213

#### **Court Visits**

Court visits are available at nearly all of the court facilities throughout Alameda County. With a prior appointment, a visit can provide a unique opportunity to observe court proceedings and to speak with judges and court staff. For more information contact: abyer@alameda.courts.ca.gov

#### **East Bay Stand Down**

Since 1999 and continuing biannually, East Bay Stand Down has helped needy and homeless veterans find assistance with housing, employment, medical and dental care, court and legal services, clothing, and other forms of aid. Stand Down is a term used during war to describe the practice of removing combat troops from the field and taking care of their basic needs in a safe area. As an entirely volunteer operation, the primary goal of East Bay Stand Down is to serve and support those veterans in need with respect and dignity.

In conjunction with East Bay Stand Down, the Alameda County Superior Court offers a Stand Down Court at the encampment to help veterans resolve specific infraction and misdemeanor cases. For more information about East Bay Stand Down programs and events visit: http://eastbaystanddown.org

#### **Homeless and Caring Court**

The Homeless and Caring Court seeks to address some of the legal barriers confronting homeless individuals. The Court holds bimonthly court sessions in homeless shelters and community sites in Alameda County. Typically, participants have been cited for various minor nonviolent offenses. These matters often escalate when homeless defendants fail to appear in court and arrest warrants are issued, creating new or additional sanctions and preventing these defendants from obtaining housing and other social welfare assistance. The individuals who participate must demonstrate their readiness to come to court in a variety of ways depending upon their particular circumstances, including seeking employment, education, pursuing sobriety, and general stability in their lives. The defendants are identified as good candidates for the Homeless Court through a consortium of local service providers.

For more information, contact: (510) 690-2744

#### **Judicial Administration Fellowship**

The Judicial Administration Fellowship Program is administered by the Center for California Studies at California State University, Sacramento and co-sponsored by the Judicial Council. The fellowship program is both academic and professional. Full-time professional placements include trial and appellate courts throughout California and the Administrative Office of the Courts; the Superior Court in Alameda County is proud to offer a dynamic and insightful experience for each fellow working in our Court. Upon acceptance into the program, fellows enroll as graduate students in Public Policy and Administration at Sacramento State, and attend academic seminars. Each year, ten fellows are accepted into the ten-month program, which begins in September of each year. For more information visit: http://www.csus.edu/calst/judicial/

#### JusticeCorps

The Bay Area Justice Corps program presents an innovative approach to solving one of the more pressing issues faced by courts around the country today: providing equal access to justice. Alameda Superior Court serves as the lead court in the Bay Area Justice Corps partnership that also includes the Superior Courts of San Mateo, San Francisco and Santa Clara. Each year, through funding provided by AmeriCorps and the California Administrative Office of the Courts, the program recruits and trains a diverse group of 70 university students and six recent graduates to augment overburdened court and legal aid staff who are assisting self-represented litigants in court-based self-help programs. These highly motivated and well-trained members each provide at least 300 hours of in-depth and individualized services to self-represented litigants. The program offers outstanding opportunities for students to learn about the law and to provide a much needed service to their community. Participants must be enrolled at one of our partnering campuses: UC Berkeley, Cal State East Bay, San Francisco State, Stanford and San Jose State. For more information visit: http://www.courts.ca.gov/programs-justicecorps.htm

#### Philip A. Harley Memorial Mock Trial

The Philip A. Harley Memorial Mock Trial Competition is a countywide high school criminal trial competition designed to increase understanding of our judicial system and the processes necessary to promote a just society. Student teams of ten to twenty study a hypothetical case, conduct legal research, and receive individual coaching by volunteer attorneys in trial preparation, courtroom protocol and procedure, legal and analytical skills, as well as oral and

written communication. Preparation begins in the fall and culminates in grueling elimination rounds over four weeks of competition in February. The winning team represents Alameda County at the state competition in March. For more information visit: https://www.acoe.org/Page/349

Or contact Katrielle Veslenio, Program Coordinator at: harleymocktrialcompetition@gmail.com

# **Butte County**

#### **Civic Learning Partnership**

The members of the CCLP of Butte County focused on developing four distinct programs that would incorporate and interact with the six proven practices in civic education. It is the CCLP's belief that each of the six proven practices are represented within the four programs. These practices are: classroom instruction in government, history, law and economics; service learning projects tied to the curriculum; simulations of democratic processes; extracurricular activities that have a strong civic dimension; student participation in school governance, and discussions of current events and controversial topics.

#### **Civic Education Program**

Mentoring Civic Engagement is designed to promote civic engagement with students through business and community leadership mentoring programs, to acquire knowledge of local city council meetings and learn how community issues and problems are solved. By definition, a mentor is someone who forms a relationship, especially with a younger generation, to act as an advisor, a guide, or a trainer and provides knowledge and education through his or her skillset. The Mentoring Civic Engagement Program will focus on mentoring young people through the vital hours of after school programs such as the Boys and Girls Club, establishing a connection with alternative education students at locations such as Fairview High School, and revitalizing troubled adolescents that might reside in Juvenile Hall with positive programs to promote individual development and improve self-esteem as well as encourage community involvement and interest in local government. The program will focus on finding teachers and administrators willing to be the initiators or point persons, citizens who are willing to volunteer time and skill sets, and civic leaders such as business owners and government administrators, who are willing to provide resources and facilities for such things as jury duty education programs, mock city council meetings, and field trips to various community facilities and local businesses.

#### **Mock Trial**

Mock trial is designed to provide the trial experience to every student in Butte County local school districts and have each student engaged in the judicial branch by first-hand experience with due process and equal protection. A scholastic mock trial is an academic event imitating the legal process used for teaching students about court trials and the judicial branch. It promotes the comprehension and due process of a trial in the legal system through academic competition by emulation of legal professionals such as attorneys and judges, court staff, and playing the part of the accused or witnesses.

#### Justice Sayings Classroom Unit

Justice Sayings Classroom Unit is designed to bring to life the ideals of great democratic thinkers (philosophers, writers, and leaders) throughout history and to introduce the students to the judicial branch of government in Butte County. Currently there are seventy-five (75) historic Justice Sayings (quotes) etched in stainless steel plates embedded in the floor throughout the new North Butte County Courthouse in Chico. Each saying identifies the source or individual and the date in which it was written or spoken. Quotes range from California Civil Code, to famous presidents, to important political figures, and other popular cultural personalities, all with various thoughts on justice and law. The Justice Sayings Classroom Unit will focus on encouraging teachers to bring students on a tour of the new courthouse and use the Justice Sayings as an emphasis for future educational opportunities, such as essays, research, and presentations determined by the age groups and grade levels of the students.

### **Fresno County**

#### **Community Justice Conference (CJC)**

The Court's Community Justice Conference (CJC) is a restorative justice project to help first-time juvenile offenders understand the consequences of and make restoration for their delinquency. The court partners with the Victim Offender Reconciliation Program at Fresno Pacific University to provide a structured, nine-week program that is nationally recognized and uses an evidence-based, early intervention model. Trained mediators work with the youth offenders, their families, and role models and/or supporters. Collaboratively, they help the youth with skills-building and empowerment strategies to help them understand the consequences of their actions. In the fourth session, the offenders meet with their victims to develop restitution plans. Often, restitution involves the youth making amends for their delinquency to their families and communities in addition to their victims. Youth who have participated in CJC since 2009 have had 5-10 percent recidivism rates while youth with similar charges who did not participate had 20-30 percent re-offenses rates. The program

also supports positive outcomes for truancy and scholastic achievement. Reduced recidivism decreases the juvenile court's workload.

#### **Access to Higher Education**

Youth in the foster care system are at much higher risk for drug use, delinquency, and unplanned pregnancies than other teens. Education offers these youths a way to achieve a brighter future. While financial aid and other resources help them access post-secondary options, they do not always know how to find these resources or maximize their benefits. In Fresno and Madera Counties a large group of collaborators, including the Fresno Superior Court, host an annual event to help youth in foster care connect with the resources and information they need to attend college or enroll in specialized job training. Held on a community college campus in Fresno, the free, day-long conference offers a number of presentations and workshops on a variety of topics. These include: high school graduation requirements, the nuts and bolts of going to college, vocational or other job-training programs, financial assistance, and independent living resources. The event also offers the teens the ability to interact with college students who were formerly in the foster care system as well as representatives from educational and vocational organizations. Dynamic speakers, lunch, music, and prize drawings keep the event fun and engaging for the youth. In the past six years, more than 700 foster youth have attended the annual conference. In

#### **Community Justice Conference**

2012, social service and justice organizations from Madera County joined the collaboration, and youth from that area began participating. Participants complete an exit survey. Each year, the vast majority of youth indicate that the Access to Higher Education event prompted them to consider college or vocational training options for the first time. They also indicate that the event provides valuable information, linkages, and planning tools to support post-secondary goals. The event is opening the door to brighter, crime-free futures for foster youth, which ultimately benefits the court, the community and these foster youths.

# Kern County

#### Kern County Judges' Speakers Bureau

The speakers' bureau provides judges or commissioners to speak to any group which seeks information about the duties and responsibilities of Judges and Commissioners. While a judicial officer may not speak about a pending case, they can explain the judicial process and the factors which can be considered in reaching a decision. They can also speak about the process of becoming a Judge and the paths that lead to that position.

#### **Color of Justice and Mentor-Jet Programs**

Color of Justice is a collaborative effort of the National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ) and the Kern County Superior Court. This unique and interactive program was designed to inform and inspire students from at-risk schools about careers in the law; to identify the academic requirements and skills needed to succeed; and to understand the importance of personal commitment, passion, dedication and the reward of hard work needed to achieve a career goal. Experienced judges and lawyers of diverse backgrounds share their experiences including the reasons why they chose their careers. The program includes a panel discussion of legal professionals and a "Jet Mentoring Session" that provides students the opportunity to speak to judges, attorneys, and law students on a one-on-one basis.

# Lassen County

#### **Teen Court**

Teen Court is a program that allows the youth of Lassen County to directly impact their community through community service and juvenile justice. It is a diversion program that allows qualifying juveniles to deal with a criminal citation outside the formal judicial system. The program encourages responsibility, accountability and lifelong civic engagement. There are three components to the Lassen County Teen Court Program: an educational component, volunteer component, and a juvenile diversion component. The school curriculum is designed as a one-week unit and includes lessons based on Juvenile Law that are featured in the Juvenile Justice Handbook. Well-equipped teachers present the material in the Juvenile Justice Handbook and facilitate discussion amongst students. The students are then tested on their knowledge of the material. The educational component wraps up with a discussion led by professionals from various aspects of the justice system. In the discussion portion of the program, Probation Officers, Judges, District Attorneys, Public Defenders, Peace Officers and the Teen Court Coordinator provide information and answer questions about the handbook curriculum and the Juvenile Justice System in a classroom setting. Each year, on average, 75 to 100 Lassen County High School students volunteer to participate in the Teen Court Program. They receive three nights (nine hours) of initial training in various aspects of the Justice System including Jury Deliberations, Confidentiality, Bailiff and Court Clerk Duties and Instruction on being a Teen Court Attorney. This training is facilitated by professionals who work in the Justice System. Once these students complete the initial training, they become Teen Court Commissioners. Teen Court Commissioners will continue to receive ongoing training each month throughout the school year.

### **Los Angeles County**

#### **Court-Clergy Conference**

Court/Clergy Conferences bring together religious leaders and judicial officers for a day-long structured dialogue about the justice system. Religious leaders benefit from increased knowledge about our justice system, especially about the criminal, juvenile, drug and family law courts, enhancing their ability to provide pastoral counseling to their congregations. Congregants often seek advice from their clergy when they are confronted with legal proceedings, for instance, when a family member is arrested. Yet religious leaders themselves often have little knowledge about our justice system.

The Court/Clergy Conferences are organized to provide information about the work of the Court to religious leaders of all faiths. The program accomplishes this through formal panel presentations; by providing informational handouts that religious leaders can use as references; by answering clergy's questions raised during the conference; by socializing with the religious leaders during lunch and meeting breaks; and, finally, by arranging booths in the sign-up areas for other justice partners, such as the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) in Dependency court. The Court's goal is to provide valuable information to religious leaders who, in turn, can provide that information to their congregants.

The Court has held eight Court/Clergy Conferences, with an average attendance of over 120 religious leaders. For more information contact the Court's Community Relations Office at: communityoutreach@lacourt.org

#### **Courtroom to Classroom**

The Courtroom to Classroom program is offered in partnership with the Constitutional Rights Foundation (CRF). Judicial officers and lawyers visit 8th and 11th grade U.S. History classrooms throughout Los Angeles County twice a year to present lessons that are part of the prescribed California History Social Science standards for U.S. history. On each visit, the team presents a slide show prepared by CRF about an aspect of the Constitution and its place in United States history. The students then participate in a mock argument on a U.S.

Supreme Court case concerning issues of interest to students. This program offers students an opportunity to interact personally with judicial officers and lawyers, and to learn about constitutional issues and the role of lawyers and judicial officers.

#### **Mock Trial**

The Court partners with the Constitutional Rights Foundation to host the annual Mock Trial competition for High School and Middle School teams from Los Angeles County. The mock trials take place at the Stanley Mosk Courthouse in downtown Los Angeles each November, and are presided over by the Court's judicial officers with volunteer attorneys evaluating the students. This promotes a working knowledge of our justice system among middle and high school students by having the students play the roles of attorneys, witnesses and court staff in a criminal trial. Students learn to work in teams, practice public speaking, and interact with positive role models from the legal community. Also, for many students this is their first exposure to the legal system and the roles of attorneys, judicial officers, and court staff. Each year, the Mock Trial competition serves over 2,100 students across Los Angeles County and involves over 350 judicial officers and lawyers.

#### **Color of Justice and Mentor-Jet Programs**

Color of Justice is a collaborative effort of the National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ) and the Los Angeles Superior Court. This unique and interactive program was designed to inform and inspire students from at-risk schools about careers in the law; to identify the academic requirements and skills needed to succeed; and to understand the importance of personal commitment, passion, dedication and the reward of hard work needed to achieve a career goal. Experienced judges and lawyers of diverse backgrounds share their experiences including the reasons why they chose their careers. The program includes a panel discussion of legal professionals and a "Jet Mentoring Session" that provides students the opportunity to speak to judges, attorneys, and law students on a one-on-one basis.

#### **Power Lunch**

The Power Lunch Program provides civic education, judicial mentorship, and exposure to the judicial branch for local high school students. The Court collaborates with bar associations, including Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County Bar Association Barristers, Mexican American Bar Association, Langston Bar Association, South Asian Bar Association and the American Board of Trial Lawyers to provide education and mentorship for high school students. Approximately 40 to 80 students attend each program, with students visiting courthouses throughout Los Angeles County for lunch with justice system professionals including judicial officers, lawyers, court reporters, interpreters and members of law enforcement. The program begins with introductions from the lawyers, judicial officers, and courtroom personnel who discuss their career paths and their role in the courtroom. We have also featured presentations by community leaders, including former Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, District Attorney Jackie Lacey, City Attorney Mike Feuer, Inglewood Mayor James Butts, and State Senator Holly Mitchell. After presentations about the legal system, the students are divided into smaller breakout groups led by judicial officers and lawyers, who prepare the students for a "Legal Jeopardy" game.

#### **SHADES**

SHADES (Stop Hate and Delinquency by Empowering Students) is a specialized version of Teen Court that handles incidents and crimes related to hate, bias and bullying among youth. In partnership with the Museum of Tolerance, the SHADES Court hears criminal cases in which minors who face charges for bias-motivated crimes, hate incidents and bullying targeted at protected classes, including race, religion, age, national origin, disability, sexual orientation and gender, are tried by a jury of specially trained high school students who have participated in a five-day human relations and Teen Court training program at the Museum of Tolerance. The juror pool is a mix of students from Teen Court high schools throughout Los Angeles County. Los Angeles Superior Court judicial officers preside over SHADES cases at a courtroom at the Los Angeles Superior Court

or at the Museum of Tolerance. If the student is found guilty, the SHADES jury will make recommendations to the judicial officer for the student's probation conditions. The goal of these conditions is to order the minor to participate in activities that will raise his/her consciousness and appreciation of diversity. SHADES benefits the minor offenders by addressing the root of their prejudice, enabling them to avoid a criminal record, and giving them an alternative to expulsion or transfer to another school. SHADES benefits campus administration by addressing campus tension and violence to help prevent future incidents. SHADES jurors improve their understanding of issues related to diversity, prejudice, hate and bullying, and develop empathy toward people different from themselves. They also learn questioning and listening skills that help them effectively adjudicate the SHADES Juror Training Institute at the Museum of Tolerance. Since 2012, the Court has held 19 SHADES trials involving alleged hate crimes based upon perceived sexual orientation, religion, gender and race, including a high profile matter involving an alleged attempt to start a "race war" at a high school.

#### **Speakers Program**

Community groups, colleges and universities can request judicial officers to speak about the justice system and issues of concern to the community. The Speakers Program gives members of the community and students a chance to have face-to-face discussions with judicial officers. The Program aims to increase public understanding of the judicial system, provide a forum for judicial officers and members of the community to exchange views, and provide an opportunity for students, especially those from diverse backgrounds, to learn about the judicial system and how to pursue a career in the legal field.

#### **Teachers Courthouse Seminar**

The Teachers Courthouse Seminar invites high school government teachers to a local courthouse for an all-day seminar about the justice system. Teachers observe court proceedings and meet with judicial officers, prosecutorial and defense staff, and Sheriff's Deputies. The Court provides teachers with materials that they can use in their classrooms to better educate students about the justice system. It is the Court's hope that this program will have a "multiplier effect" in that we can reach thousands of students by enabling their teachers to enhance the students' education about the Court. The Teachers Courthouse Seminar is a pioneering program that received the prestigious Ralph Kleps Award as an innovative "improvement in the administration of justice."

#### **Teen Court**

Teen Courts function as actual courts for young people who commit non-serious crimes, in which they are questioned, judged and sentenced by a jury of their peers. Teen Court provides an alternative to Juvenile Court, and is based on the philosophy that a young person who engages in criminal activity for the first time should have the opportunity to correct his or her behavior with support from the justice system in the hope that the offender will not later commit more serious crimes. Teen Court jurors are selected from the high school's student body. Teen Court offers the young person who is found guilty the opportunity, upon successful completion of his or her sentence within six months, to have no record of a criminal conviction. Further, Teen Court prevents the harm caused to a young person by unnecessary involvement in the juvenile justice system. For the students who participate as jurors, clerks and bailiffs, Teen Court offers valuable lessons about how courts operate and what it is like to be a part of the justice system. Many Teen Court jurors later express an interest in studying law. The Court and the public benefit from Teen Court currently operates 38 Teen Courts in high schools throughout Los Angeles County. Over 70 judicial officers preside over Teen Courts, and typically hear trials on one to two afternoons each month.

#### **Visiting Foreign Judicial Delegations**

The Court regularly hosts visiting delegations of judicial officers from around the world, as well as local high school and other student and adult groups. The visitors observe judges in the courtroom and learn about the workings of the American justice system. The Court has hosted delegations from Mongolia, Bulgaria, Israel, China, Mexico, Burma, Indonesia, Micronesia, South Korea, and Japan, among others. The Court has also welcomed students from elementary school through college to visit the Court and observe its proceedings. The Court's Community Relations Office can arrange for visits for foreign delegations. To the extent time permits, the Court can also assist with school group visits. However, Los Angeles Superior Courts are open to the public and school groups may visit any time without a guided tour.

#### Succeeding Through Achievement and Resilience (STAR) Court

The Court and Probation have partnered to provide referrals to specialized services for underage victims of sex trafficking. The genesis of the program was the noticeable increase in prostitution cases being filed in the delinquency courts, some carrying over to the dependency courts. A study of those cases confirmed that there was a demonstrated problem of sexual trafficking taking place among minors who were on the streets of LA County. Development of the Succeed Through Achievement and Resilience (STAR) Court was aimed at providing intervention and assistance to youth caught up in the perils of human sex trafficking. The outcome of the program was the creation and continued success of the STAR Court that provides often life-saving services and intervention for minors who might otherwise be lost to the streets forever.

For more information visit: http://www.courts.ca.gov/27693.htm

### **Marin County**

#### **Speakers**

Judicial officers and court administrators are available to speak on topics such as: the importance of judicial impartiality, the constitutional role of the judicial branch, public access to the court, legal assistance for self represented litigants, therapeutic and restorative justice courts in Marin, community justice planning, and other topics to be determined by mutual consent of the Court and requester.

For more information visit the Superior Court of California, County of Marin website. To schedule a speaker, contact: administration@marincourt.org

#### **Court for Kids**

Court for Kids is a program that teaches children about the court system. Generally, children learn that court is a bad place from family, friends, or the TV. The court is trying to educate children on what services it has to offer. Marin county court has a Community Advisory Committee and Court for Kids was a project sponsored by that group. A school principal was selected to be on the Community Advisory Committee and she wanted to help kids better understand what courts did and why. Her concern stemmed from what she would see daily at her school and the confusion and misunderstandings that some students had as to their parents' involvement, or their own, in the court system, typically in the family court. Court for Kids is entirely the creation of the kids in a 5th grade class. They researched courts, interviewed court personnel and judicial officers, took pictures, wrote the script, and created the cartoons doing both video and voice. They also did the Spanish translations. The bench worked with them in vetting the script for accuracy. The Community Advisory Committee and the court served as sources and mentors for this year-long project, meeting with the students and helping with field trips to the court. Court for Kids has a definite Marin context - with the recurring character of Frank Lloyd Wright who designed the Marin Civic Center - but its discussion of courts and kids in court is universal. The students definitely benefited from this creative and interactive project and through their contact with the court. The school met many of its core educational requirements. Since the presentation is on the court's website, other

children who view it will also come away with a better understanding of our court system. To visit the page created by the Marin County 5th grade class go to: http://www.marincourt.org/court4kids.htm

# **Merced County**

#### **Youth Court**

The Merced Superior Court, Merced Probation Department, and UC Merced collaborated to deter delinquent juveniles from committing misdemeanor/minor offenses and escalating to felony acts. The Merced Youth Court is spearheaded by UC Merced students. The Youth Court program provides a way of restoring justice after a juvenile has committed a misdemeanor, minor offense, or truancy. This early intervention program offers an alternative to going through the traditional juvenile justice system. The Youth Court program educates juveniles on law and order and guides the juveniles to accept responsibility for their own actions. The Youth Court program redirects lives of troubled youth and helps foster their development into becoming positive members of the community. The juveniles receive community service hours, substance abuse/psych counseling, and jail tours. The UC Merced students' roles are to act as jury, prosecution, defense, and support staff. The UC Merced students make a positive impact in the lives of Merced County youth. They gain first hand legal experience in the court justice system that will aid them in their future careers.

### **Modoc County**

#### **Peer Court**

The Modoc Juvenile Peer Court was established in 1998 as an informal means of handling certain juvenile cases that may be appropriate for formal Court proceedings. If it appears to the Probation Officer that the case would be appropriate for Peer Court (it's not a serious felony and extensive victim restitution is not being requested), the juvenile offender and his/her parent(s) are offered the opportunity to have the youth's case handled through Peer Court. The minor and parent sign a waiver of confidentiality and the minor admits the allegations for the purpose of having the matter heard in Peer Court (because the Peer Court does not determine guilt or innocence, only disposition). Peer Court is a good opportunity for a juvenile offender to have his/her case handled without it becoming part of a permanent delinquency record. It is also a positive learning experience for local high school students who act as prosecutors, defense attorneys and jurors.

### **Mono County**

#### **Hispanic Community Forum**

In partnership with local law enforcement agencies (county sheriff, California Highway Patrol, and local police department) the court participates in a community forum every six months for the county's Spanish-speaking population. Representatives from the court, local governmental entities, Mexican Consulate, and local law enforcement give bilingual presentations on topics of relevant interest as immigration law, the criminal justice process, civil liberties, and public entitlements. Members of the Spanish-speaking community attending the forums are able to ask questions of the presenters in an anonymous manner. The Hispanic forums provide the court and other local governmental entities direct access to the Spanish-speaking community of the courty. The forums also act as a means of direct access for the Spanish-speaking community to local government entities and the court. The forums have provided the opportunity for continued dialogue between the community, law enforcement, and court services. An unexpected benefit was improved communication between the court and law enforcement. Also, when the Mexican Consulate is scheduled to attend, he will obtain local lodging and provide services to the community the next day as well. These forums help to dispel

misinformation and build trust between the Spanish-speaking community and the court and local governmental entities.

### **Monterey County**

#### **Juvenile Justice Commission**

The Monterey County Juvenile Justice Commission is a mandated group of private citizens who perform a variety of advocacy and regulatory functions on behalf of the youth involved in the juvenile justice system. The Mission of the Monterey County Juvenile Justice Commission is to inquire into the administration of juvenile court law in this county and to ensure that the highest standards of care and services are maintained for the youth within the juvenile justice system. Under the mandates of the California Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC), the JJC conducts announced and unannounced inspections of police department's temporarily housing juveniles, county operated juvenile facilities and group homes where wards and dependent children of the Juvenile Court are placed. The Commission also inspects and reviews operations and programs of the Youth Correctional schools and monitors medical/mental health programs within the facilities. The Commission is comprised of not less than 7 and no more than 15 citizens, two of the positions are youth members between the ages of 18 and 21. The Commissioners are appointed by the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court with the concurrence of the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court and serve a four-year term.

### Napa County

#### **Courthouse Tours**

The Superior Court of California, County of Napa has established an ongoing effort to improve its community outreach. The program includes surveys, focus groups and community input into the Court's strategic plan. Through these efforts, the Court seeks to increase public trust and confidence in the judicial system. Courthouse tours would include the Historic Courthouse completed in 1879, the Jury Assembly area, County Law Library, Courtroom B pictorial of past and present judiciary and the Hall of History pictorial of the areas served by the Court. The Criminal Courthouse was dedicated in March 1999, it was built at a cost of \$14.6 million and provides the judges, staff, and the community with a secure and highly technological atmosphere in which to conduct business. The tour includes an overview of the building's security, a courtroom, jury deliberation room, a judge's chambers, bailiff's security center, and jail command center/prisoner passage tunnel. When Court schedules allow, student group tours may be highlighted by conversations with a judge, bailiff, and courtroom clerk.

For more information, contact the Community Outreach Office at: (707) 299-112

### **Orange County**

#### **Speakers' Bureau**

The Orange County Blue Ribbon Commission on Children in Foster Care, chaired by Presiding Juvenile Court Judge Maria D. Hernandez has launched a Speakers Bureau to raise awareness and public understanding of child welfare and foster care issues in Orange County. The Speakers Bureau is comprised of practitioners with expertise on various areas in the child welfare system and includes judges, social workers, attorneys, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs), former foster youth, and representatives from the Orange County Health Care Agency, the Department of Education, the Public Defender's Office, the Probation Department, the Orangewood Foundation, and The Children and Families Commission. The speakers represent a wealth of knowledge on issues impacting foster care in Orange County, and can speak to organizations and community groups on topics such as: The role of Juvenile Court, child abuse and endangerment, child and adolescent

mental health issues, educational advocacy, foster youth services, the role of CASA, juvenile dependency law, and juvenile delinquency law.

For more information, contact Lisa Cogbill, Executive Assistant to the Presiding Judge of Juvenile Court, at: (657) 622-5502

#### **Color of Justice and Mentor-Jet Programs**

Color of Justice is a collaborative effort of the National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ) and the Orange County Superior Court. This unique and interactive program was designed to inform and inspire students from at-risk schools about careers in the law; to identify the academic requirements and skills needed to succeed; and to understand the importance of personal commitment, passion, dedication and the reward of hard work needed to achieve a career goal. Experienced judges and lawyers of diverse backgrounds share their experiences including the reasons why they chose their careers. The program includes a panel discussion of legal professionals and a "Jet Mentoring Session" that provides students the opportunity to speak to judges, attorneys, and law students on a one-on-one basis.

#### **Court Tours**

The Superior Court of California, County of Orange invites students and their teachers to learn more about the justice system by participating in its Court Tour program. This educational opportunity is geared for students in grades eight through 12. Trained volunteer guides conduct the three-hour tours. A minimum of 20 and a maximum of 45 students will be accepted for each tour. Tours Include: An overview of the justice system, juvenile laws, and court careers, observing court hearings such as arraignments, drug court, or traffic court; Participating in a scripted mock trial in which students enact various courtroom roles such as judge, attorney, witness, court clerk, bailiff, etc.; and observing an actual criminal or civil trial. Dates: October through May (no tours June through September).

For more information about the Santa Ana tours, contact: 657-622-5001 For more information about the Fullerton tours, contact: 657-622-5627

#### **Constitution Day**

The federal government has declared Constitution Day on September 17th each year. In Orange County, this day is commemorated by holding a conference for high school students at a college campus. The court co-hosts this event to introduce high school students to the importance of the Constitution, as well as the importance of registering to vote and participating in the election process. The conference is usually themed (such as: Your Vote; Your Voice and Join the Conversation) and includes a keynote speaker and a mock trial hearing. A committee of the Constitutional Rights Foundation of Orange County is the lead agency of the event and they approached the court to become involved.

To contact the Orange County Constitutional Rights Foundation visit: https://www.crfoc.org/contact-us/ Or for more information visit: http://education.occourts.org/constitution.asp

#### **Peer Court**

Peer Court is a unique juvenile crime diversion program that offers both a second chance to first-time juvenile offenders who have committed non-violent misdemeanors and a valuable educational experience to all high school students in Orange County. Peer Court sessions are held on school campuses across Orange County. Sitting judges preside, attorneys advise and high school students designated as "jurors" assess the cases presented and assign appropriate sanctions. Students in the audience observe and participate in an interactive curriculum, learning about the juvenile justice system and the importance of making responsible decisions. For more information, visit the Orange County Constitutional Rights Foundation website. Or contact: ncernius@crfoc.org

# **Riverside County**

#### **Mock Trial**

The Constitutional Rights Foundation (CRF) introduced the Mock Trial Program to California counties in 1980. Students participate in a simulated trial that is set up and structured just like a real court and learn about the roles that judges, lawyers, witnesses, and others play in our judicial system. Each year, CRF produces a new set of Mock Trial materials based on an important issue facing America's youth. The materials include a hypothetical criminal case, lesson plans, and competition rules and guidelines. In California, the program engages over 8,000 students and participants each year with the help of teacher-sponsors and attorney-coaches, and thousands of members from the state's bar and bench who volunteer their time to make Mock Trial an exciting educational experience for the students. The Riverside County competition typically involves six toseven rounds of trials in which an estimated 1,000 students, parents, teachers, coaches, attorneys, and judges participate. Winners of the county competitions go on to the state finals in March, with the winner of the state competition representing California at the annual National High School Mock Trial Competition in May. The national competition involves teams from 54 states and territories. The Riverside County competition typically involves six to seven rounds of trials in which an estimated 1,000 students, parents, teachers, coaches, attorneys, and judges participate. Winners of the county competitions go on to the state finals in March, with the winner of the state competition representing California at the annual National High School Mock Trial Competition in May. The national competition involves teams from 54 states and territories

#### Speakers' Bureau

The Speakers' Bureau informs the community about the role of courts and the issues and needs of the community in court-related matters. As a community service, the Riverside County can provide speakers for your meeting, event, or school. The court formed the Speakers Bureau for two reasons: One, to increase public understanding and knowledge of the judicial system, and two, to provide a forum for judges and members of the community to discuss common concerns. The court faces unique challenges in this time of explosive population growth and remains aware of the diverse needs of the community. Usually, the county finds that the speakers take away from a speaking engagement as much information as they have shared. Topics for speeches typically include: bails/jails/prison, how to become a judge, crime and punishment juvenile issues, drugs/gangs, landlord/tenant, drunk driving/traffic, role of the judge, civil/small claims, jury service, family law, three strikes.

#### Law Day

Law Day, officially established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1958, provides an opportunity to reflect on our nation's legal heritage and the role of law in our society. In 1961, a joint resolution of Congress designated May 1 as the official day for observing Law Day, but celebrations often take place either before or after that day and are often celebrated as Law Week. Each year, the American Bar Association selects a theme for Law Day and issues a helpful planning guide and other materials to assist schools and organizations in planning Law Day events. For more information, visit the American Bar Association website ('ABA Groups'  $\rightarrow$  'Division for Public Education'  $\rightarrow$  'Programs & Initiatives')

#### **Youth Court**

The Riverside Youth Court was developed as part of the City of Riverside's juvenile justice system and is managed by the Riverside Police Department in partnership with local agencies. The Riverside Youth Court acts as an early intervention for first-time juvenile offenders and is designed to give youth between the ages of 10 and 17, who have broken the law and admitted their guilt, a second chance. The Southwest Valley Youth Court offers a similar alternative approach to juvenile justice in which juveniles are sentenced by a jury of their peers for infractions and non-violent misdemeanor crimes. The Southwest Valley program is operated by the Murrieta Police Department. The Riverside County Sheriff's Department sponsors the Elsinore Valley Youth

Court Diversion Program, which intervenes in the early stages of delinquent and criminal behavior in order to reduce and prevent the escalation of criminal behavior among juveniles.

#### **Tribal Alliance**

The Riverside County Tribal Alliance (Alliance) for Indian Children and Families is dedicated to increasing participation, communication, and understanding among the court, the tribes, and county agencies serving Native American families. The Riverside Tribal Alliance was formed in 2005 under the leadership of the court. The goal is to minimize court and county intervention and increase tribal participation and control over Native American children and families by developing culturally appropriate services. Alliance members are working to create and sustain partnerships founded upon understanding, communication, and cultural awareness among the sovereign tribal nations and community and governmental agencies. The Tribal Alliance sees this as an opportunity to collaborate for the betterment of children in Riverside County. Indirect benefit has been seen such as the court establishing contact with tribal groups, and understanding issues and challenges the tribes face.

For information visit: http://www.casaforchildren.org/site/c.mtJSJ7MPIsE/b.9300715/k.8B62/Article9 Edwards.htm

# Sacramento County

#### **Court Tours**

The Sacramento County Superior Court offers an open invitation for schools to schedule a tour at the Gordon D. Schaber courthouse. The tour is designed to enhance students' understanding of the court system, offer an opportunity to observe court proceedings and interact with a judge.

#### **Impartial Judiciary Presentation**

The threats to the Impartiality of the Judicial Branch of American Government have been steadily increasing over the past decade, from recall elections of judges, to the erosion of judicial immunity. In 2008, Judge James Mize, in partnership with the California Judges Association, and the Judicial Council of California, launched a campaign to educate the public about the importance of preserving a fair and impartial judiciary. The presentation is designed to educate and engage teens and adults and is loaded with graphics and video clips. The presentation is conducted by Superior Court judges and covers four ideals of American government: The Rule of Law, Separation of Powers, Checks and Balances, and An Impartial Court.

#### **Judicial Internship Program**

The Sacramento Superior Court, in collaboration with the California State University, Sacramento, implemented the Judicial Internship Program in January 2008. Students are introduced to the organization and structure of the Sacramento Superior Court and the California Court system through weekly group discussions conducted by Sacramento Superior Court judges. For more information on this program, contact the CSUS Center for California Studies at: 916-278-4487

#### Judicial Community Outreach Program

Judicial officers attend or speak at schools, community events, and functions with the purpose of enhancing communication between the court and residents of Sacramento County. The judicial branch of government plays a crucial role in the administration of justice in our society and the Sacramento Superior Court welcomes the opportunity to speak at the organization's events or schools about the role of the court in our community and other related topics.

# San Bernardino County

#### **Speaker Bureau**

The Speaker Bureau provides an opportunity for judges and commissioners to make presentations at public functions such as: chamber of commerce meetings, service clubs and organizations, community action groups and schools. This program offers opportunities for judicial officers to talk about issues of mutual concern to the court and the community. For more information, visit the Superior Court of San Bernardino website.

### San Diego County

#### **Courthouse Tours**

The San Diego Superior Court, in collaboration with the San Diego County Bar Association, offers a Courthouse Tour Program for 5th through 12th grade students. Tours consist of a visit to the felony arraignment department including a question-and-answer session with a judge and participation in a mock trial. 6th through 12th graders observe an actual trial in session, and 5th graders get to see the cells (unoccupied) where prisoners are held. Prior to the tours, teachers help their students prepare with a vocabulary list of court terms and a video called "Path to Justice," an overview of the California justice system. Tours are available at the Downtown courthouse and the El Cajon courthouse. For more information contact Julie Myers, Community Outreach and Education Program Coordinator, at: julie.myers@sdcourt.ca.gov

#### Organized Visits: Colleges, Universities, Law Schools & International Law Related Groups

The purpose of the visits is for the students and law related groups from all over the world to learn about and experience the justice system first-hand. The visits generally include an overview of the San Diego Superior Court and a list of courtrooms in session. They then have the opportunity to observe trials and other court proceedings.

#### **International Visitors Program**

The San Diego Superior Court hosts many foreign delegations of visitors eager to learn more about the American justice system and the trial courts in California. San Diego Diplomacy Council collaborates with the San Diego Superior Court in organizing Judicial Round-Tables. Delegations often visit from Mexico, India, Mongolia, and other countries. Foreign delegations bring their own translators and observe court proceedings and visit with San Diego Superior Court Judges who answer their questions about the justice system in California.

#### Justice 101

Justice 101 is a unique program for high school seniors only. Geared specifically for these young people about to enter the adult world, it emphasizes the consequences that can occur when people make poor choices in their lives. The program was developed to enhance American Government courses and provide students with the opportunity to experience the justice system first-hand. The program, offered numerous times during the school year, includes: a candid and interactive presentation by a Superior Court judge about critical issues facing young adults today, a visit to courtrooms to observe actual court proceedings in progress, and a question and answer session with a court official and Deputy Sheriff. It includes a discussion about the importance of participating in the judicial system as a juror, which will enable them to be better informed citizens when they receive the call to jury duty as an adult. Justice 101 is available at the San Diego downtown courthouse only, but high schools from throughout the county participate.

#### Youth In Court Day

This outreach program is held annually in the court's North County division in early March. Available to North County schools, the program exposes the students to the various aspects of the judicial system. More than 1,000 elementary, middle, and high school students are given the opportunity to interact with judges and staff during the day-long event. Domestic violence, forensic evidence, and gang violence are some of the various topics examined through workshops and mock trial activities. Youth in Court Day is available at the Vista Courthouse. For more information contact: joy.mcclain@sdcourt.ca.gov

#### **On My Honor**

On My Honor is a complete educational experience for elementary and middle school students in which they learn how the justice system works. The program includes a classroom curriculum with four separate lessons, a teacher's guide, lesson plans, and related activities that take place in the schools. After this classroom preparation, the students then visit the court, where they participate in a mock trial presided over by an actual judge, each student playing a role in the courtroom process, as counsel, jury member, court reporter, or defendant. On My Honor is available at the Vista Courthouse.

For more information contact: cristina.torres@sdcourt.ca.gov or (760) 201-8120.

#### San Diego County High School Mock Trial Program & Competition

The San Diego County High School Mock Trial Program & Competition is a statewide academic competition in which high school students compete at the county, state, and national level. It places high school students in a simulated courtroom setting where they assume the roles of lawyers and witnesses in a hypothetical case. As part of the program, area lawyers volunteer to serve as coaches and scorers for the competition and Superior and Federal Court Judges, Magistrates and Commissioners preside over the mock trials. The winning team goes on to represent San Diego County at the California Mock Trial Finals.

For more information, visit: sdmocktrial.org

#### Law Week

Started in 1961, Law Day USA (May 1) was designated as an occasion for Americans to celebrate their liberties and explore the ideals of equality and justice under the law. Since then, Law Day has evolved into Law Week. During this week, the San Diego Superior Court and the San Diego County Public Law Library collaborate to provide Legal Resource Knowledge Fairs at each court division. The Fairs feature information about various court programs, the Law Library, and non-profit legal groups that provide legal resources and services to the public. In addition, student entries in the Law Week essay and poster contest, sponsored by the San Diego County Bar Association, are displayed at the Hall of Justice in downtown San Diego.

#### **Mediation Week**

The goal of Mediation Week, held the third week in March, is to increase public awareness of the availability and benefits of court mediation programs and to recognize individuals and organizations providing mediation services. Mediation is a form of alternative dispute resolution in which a neutral third person helps the parties reach a voluntary resolution of a dispute. Various Mediation Week events are scheduled, such as information tables at court facilities where printed information and videos about the mediation process and mediation services offered through the court are made available to the public.

#### Juror Appreciation Week

Juror Appreciation Week, which occurs the second full week each May, annually honors the important contributions of citizens in devoting their time and effort in making the cherished right to a trial by jury a reality. Each year, the State of California Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) and San Diego Superior Court team up with local agencies such as the Metropolitan Transit System, the Air Pollution Control District,

and the San Diego County Water Authority to recognize the thousands of citizens of San Diego County who answer the call to serve their community.

#### JusticeCorps

The JusticeCorps program presents an innovative approach to solving one of the most pressing needs of courts: providing equal access to justice. With funding from the California Administrative Office of the Courts, the San Diego Superior Court trains university students to assist self-represented litigants. These highly-motivated and well-trained students provide 300 hours of service during a one-year period to the court and self-represented litigants.

#### **Speakers Bureau**

Judges and court staff are available to meet with school groups and community organizations to talk about how the court works and the challenges and opportunities facing the California justice system. For more information contact Julie Myers, Community Outreach and Education Program Coordinator, at: julie.myres@sdcourt.ca.gov or (619) 844-2322.

#### Passport to Life Career & Education Expo

Passport to Life, a career and education expo presented by San Diego Superior Court, Juvenile Division; San Diego County Probation Department; San Diego County Office of Education, Juvenile Court and Community Schools; San Diego City College; San Diego Workforce Partnership; San Diego County District Attorney's Office and the San Diego County Public Defender's Office is aimed at youth, ages 14 to 24, who are on probation or have been on probation in San Diego County. The event offers user-friendly information about resources and opportunities available to them as they transition from being a youth on probation into adulthood with adult responsibilities. The goal is to provide them with ideas, tools, motivation, encouragement, and hope for their future. It is based on the premise that all youth, including adjudicated youth with probation histories, have the ability to succeed if they have the right training, support, and opportunities. The event now in its eighth year, is held on the San Diego City College campus and begins with motivational speakers who share their personal stories of overcoming the odds, including homelessness, juvenile detention, drug and alcohol abuse, gang involvement, and prison. That is followed by interactive workshops designed to help the youth make the right choices for their future including; Don't Allow Your Past to Punish Your Future; Overcoming Barriers; Education Beyond High School; Financial Aid for Further Education; and Landing and Keeping a Job and Financial Management, just to name a few. Additionally, more than 80 exhibitors, including employers, colleges, training programs, counseling services and military recruiters, offer "nuts and bolts" information about how to access their resources. Lunch is provided and lunchtime activities include a fashion show illustrating appropriate attire for a job interview and the workplace. More than 900 youth and parents attended the 2015 event.

#### You be the Judge

You be the Judge is a unique opportunity for fifth through twelfth graders to learn and experience the justice system through the eyes of a Superior Court Judge. Students are given the fact pattern of a real adjudicated case and are asked to decide the sentence as if they were the Judge. They are given the opportunity to ask questions about the case before they make their decision. The students not only learn about the justice system and how a trial is conducted; they learn about the complicated issues a Judge must consider when deciding the appropriate punishment. Students also participate in a mock trial or observe a courtroom in session.

#### **Color of Justice and Mentor-Jet Programs**

Color of Justice is a collaborative effort of the National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ) and the San Diego Superior Court. This unique and interactive program was designed to inform and inspire students from

at-risk schools about careers in the law; to identify the academic requirements and skills needed to succeed; and to understand the importance of personal commitment, passion, dedication and the reward of hard work needed to achieve a career goal. Experienced judges and lawyers of diverse backgrounds share their experiences including the reasons why they chose their careers. The program includes a panel discussion of legal professionals and a "Jet Mentoring Session" that provides students the opportunity to speak to judges, attorneys, and law students on a one-on-one basis.

#### **Court-Clergy Conference: Building Community Through Justice**

Court/Clergy Conferences bring together religious leaders and judicial officers for a day-long structured dialogue about the justice system. Religious leaders benefit from increased knowledge about our justice system, especially about the criminal, juvenile, drug and family law courts, enhancing their ability to provide pastoral counseling to their congregations. Congregants often seek advice from their clergy when they are confronted with legal proceedings, for instance, when a family member is arrested. Yet religious leaders themselves often have little knowledge about our justice system. The Court/Clergy Conferences are organized to provide information about the work of the Court to religious leaders of all faiths. The program accomplishes this through formal panel presentations; by providing informational handouts that religious leaders can use as references; by answering clergy's questions raised during the conference; by socializing with the religious leaders during lunch and meeting breaks; and, finally, by arranging booths in the sign-up areas for other justice partners, such as the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) in Dependency court. The Court's goal is to provide valuable information to religious leaders who, in turn, can provide that information to their congregants.

#### Success Inside & Out

The National Association of Women Judges' "Success Inside & Out" Program is a re-entry program designed to assist incarcerated women who are about to be released from detention. This program is presented in collaboration with the San Diego Superior Court and Las Colinas Women's detention and re-entry facility. The purpose of this one-day conference is to educate the women in an effort to reduce recidivism. The NAWJ recognizes that there is a societal need to stop the revolving door into our jails and prisons. They also recognize that the incarcerated women's simple desire to succeed upon release may not be enough to help them get their lives back together, and that assistance is vital in planning their road ahead.

This program provides information about resources available to the women upon re-entry into the community. The comprehensive conference addresses such topics as housing, transportation, education, substance abuse counseling, parenting training, stress management, self-esteem, job search, communication skills, budgeting, and building healthy relationships.

#### For more information, visit: https://success-sd.com/

You may contact Hon. Tamila E. Ipema at Tamila.Ipema@sdcourt.ca.gov; Hon. Pennie McLaughlin at Pennie.McLaughlin@sdcourt.ca.gov; Hon. Terrie Roberts at Terrie.Roberts@sdcourt.ca.gov.

# San Francisco County

#### Judges at Sunday Streets Community Event

On March 23, 2018, Assistant Presiding Judge Garrett L. Wong, Judge Richard C. Darwin, Judge Anne-Christine Massullo, and Judge Daniel A. Flores organized a table at the San Francisco Sunday Streets event in the Excelsior neighborhood. The event provided an opportunity for the judges to meet with members of the public and answer general questions about the Court and its services.

#### **Color of Justice and Mentor-Jet Programs**

Color of Justice is a collaborative effort of the National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ) and the San Francisco Superior Court. This unique and interactive program was designed to inform and inspire students

from at-risk schools about careers in the law; to identify the academic requirements and skills needed to succeed; and to understand the importance of personal commitment, passion, dedication and the reward of hard work needed to achieve a career goal. Experienced judges and lawyers of diverse backgrounds share their experiences including the reasons why they chose their careers. The program includes a panel discussion of legal professionals and a "Jet Mentoring Session" that provides students the opportunity to speak to judges, attorneys, and law students on a one-on-one basis.

#### Meet the Judges: A Community Forum

On May 14, 2015, in partnership with The Bar Association of San Francisco, the San Francisco Superior Court held the "Meet the Judges: A Community Forum" where members of the public were able to ask questions of San Francisco Judges outside of the courtroom. Over 70 members of the public attended and had the opportunity to speak with Judges about topics that included Civil Harassment/Restraining Orders, Family Law, Housing, Traffic, Small Claims, ACCESS Self-Help Center, and Jury Service. A short reception where citizens could talk one-on-one with the Judges was held after the event.

#### **International Visitors**

The San Francisco Superior Court hosts many foreign delegations of visitors eager to learn more about the American justice system and the trial courts in California. Delegations often visit from China, Japan, Korea and Australia. Foreign delegations bring their own translators and observe court proceedings and visit with San Francisco Superior Court Judges who answer their questions about the justice system in California.

#### Day in Court Program for San Francisco School Children

In cooperation with the San Francisco Superior Court, the Day in Court Program, under the direction of the Bar Association of San Francisco, takes students from the classroom to the courtroom, allowing them to witness first-hand the trial of civil cases. Tours take place at the San Francisco County Courthouse located at 400 McAllister Street and are led by tour guides who are practicing attorneys. Each tour accommodates 30-45 students and takes place on Wednesday mornings throughout the school year. Judges meet with the students at the end of their visit to answer any questions they may have about the judicial system. For more information about the programs please contact Ann E. Donlan the Communications Director. For

more information contact: adonlan@sftc.org or (415) 551-5957.

# San Joaquin County

#### **Classroom Speaker Program**

Upon request, judicial officers go into schools to accurately educate youth about the judicial system and to give them positive impressions of the justice system and the judiciary. Four classroom presentations designed to achieve these goals and meet the needs of students were developed: 1. The Courts as the Third Branch of Government and the Importance of Jury Service 2. Common Issues for Youthful Drivers, Traffic Laws and Penalties 3. Juvenile Law and You 4. Family Law and You A pamphlet which details these presentations is available for teachers and administrators. A booklet entitled, The Courts as the Third Branch of Government is available for teachers who might wish to prepare their students for that presentation. Judicial officers are also available to participate in Career Days as requested, where similar subjects and materials are discussed. For more information, or to schedule a speaker, contact: (209) 468-8121

#### **Courthouse Tour Program**

With a desire to increase the number of field trips to the courthouse, the court provides a more formal program called Courthouse Tours. Each tour includes a presentation to the students by a Judge and courtroom staff. Attorneys in the District Attorney's Office and from the defense bar may be available for some tours to provide information to the students. Students learn the roles of the judge, attorneys, clerk, bailiff, and court reporter. In addition to providing students basic information about the justice system, it is hoped that students will be exposed to career opportunities many of them had not considered before.

The County of Office Education has indicated that their science camp buses are available for transportation on days when those buses are not in use. For more information, or to schedule a tour, contact: (209) 468-8121

#### Youth Leadership Academy

This five-week summer program is for high school students. The program provides the students with career mentoring and insight into the justice system. Participating students may earn two units of general education college credit through San Joaquin Delta Community College. For more information, contact: (209) 468-8121

#### **First Impressions**

Modeled after the Los Angeles Municipal Court's award winning program of the same name, efforts are focused primarily on students who are from neighborhoods in Stockton where negative impressions about the justice system are often developed early in life. The goals are to give these students access to a quality orientation about the justice system, to develop positive impressions about that system, and provide them with an understanding of nonviolent dispute resolution. A team consisting of a judge, prosecutor and defense attorney are assigned to each participating 5th grade class. The team teaches one class session per week for five to seven weeks. These class sessions involve age and grade level appropriate lessons designed to provide the students with basic understanding about the three branches of government, their rights under the Fifth and Sixth Amendments, and the workings of the justice system. The highlight of the program is a mock trial done by each class in a courtroom at the Superior Court. The trial involves the trial of the Big Bad Wolf for the "hamicide" of two of the three Pig Brothers. After their mock trial, the students are treated to.

# San Mateo County

#### High School Case Study

To learn more about the court system and the role that judges play in the criminal justice system, the San Mateo County Superior Court has developed an interactive exercise for use in high schools. This exercise outlines the facts of a criminal case (based on a real case in San Mateo County) and includes questions that teachers can use in the classroom to facilitate discussion. After a class reviews the exercise, a Judge from the court can go to the school and discuss this and other court issues with the class.

For more information visit the San Mateo County Superior Court website; Or contact Judge Mark R. Forcum at: mforcum@sanmateocourt.org or (650) 261-5108.

### Santa Barbara County

#### **Courthouse Tours**

Free tours are conducted at 2:00 p.m. daily except on Sunday. Additional tours are conducted at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, Tuesday and Friday. For more information, contact the docents at: (805) 962-6464.

### Santa Clara County

#### **Court Visits**

The Court welcomes community organizations and educational institutions to participate in organized visits. Court visits are tailored to the age, educational purpose and time allocations of the individual organizations. Visits can include: • Historic tour of the Court's Old Court House and other Court facilities • Criminal arraignments and proceedings • Civil trial proceedings • Q/A with judge and other courtroom staff • Combining court tour with mock trial experience (for educational institutions only) • Group photograph with a judge and courtroom staff Juvenile Dependency and Justice Courts are not open to the public. Generally, all court proceedings are open to the public. Those wishing to visit a courthouse and plan to attend as audience members do not need to schedule in advance and are encouraged to attend independently.

#### **Mock Trial**

A "mock trial" is a simulation of a lower-court trial ("moot court" simulates appellate court hearings). This program offers students the opportunity to participate in a rehearsed, interactive fictional trial so that they can learn firsthand the Court's role in the judicial branch of government. Students play the roles of attorneys, witnesses, jurors and judge. A mock trial accommodates anywhere from six to 20 active participants (generally, there is no limit on the number of audience members). It is open to all educational, community-based organizations. Students must prepare and rehearse roles before actual mock trial in the courthouse. For more information visit the Santa Clara Superior Court website or contact: visit@scscourt.org

#### **Speakers Bureau**

Santa Clara County judges represent the community and work hard to serve our residents. They welcome the opportunity to meet with organizations and discuss the role of the Court in our community. The Court's Speakers Bureau program coordinates judges and commissioners speaking at events, meetings or school function. Judicial officers can provide insight into how civil and criminal cases proceed through the court system and how conflicts are resolved. Judges are conversant on a wide range of topics, including: Bails/Jails/Prison, Civil/Small Claims, Drug Treatment Court, Drunk Driving, Family Law, Juvenile Issues, Landlord/Tenant, Traffic, Jury Service, how to become a judge

### **Shasta County**

#### Grand Jury Open House & Grand Jury Informational Meeting

The Grand Jury Open House/Informational meeting is a public meeting held each Spring as the court and county begin grand jury recruitment efforts. The public is invited to attend to learn more about the grand jury and is encouraged to apply for service. Representatives from various agencies attend, such as the County Executive Officer, District Attorney, County Counsel, Presiding Judge, and Court Executive Officer. Several current grand jurors and past grand jurors also attend. Each representative makes a presentation on topics such as county government, county counsel's perspective, orientation and training, qualifications, and theapplication/interview process. Everyone fields questions from the audience. A panel of grand jurors is also available to answer questions. Because a number of other ideas have been implemented to increase the number of prospective grand juror applicants, it is difficult to attribute all of the recent successes to the holding of an open house. Recent years have seen an increase in not only the number of applicants, but in the quality of the individuals that are applying. This program along with public service announcements and orientation meetings with new grand jurors has resulted in better quality in the grand jury reports and fewer problems with grand juror misconduct. Success was gauged by an increase in the number of applicants wanting to serve on the grand jury and a decrease in the number of resignations after selection occurred because people were better informed on grand jury service.

### **Solano County**

#### **Real DUI Court in Schools**

The court brings real DUI trials to local high schools. It is typically held in a school auditorium or large meeting space and many students attend. The defendant waives his right to a jury trial and a real court trial is held with 12 students serving as an advisory jury. Prosecutor and defense counsel present the case, and witnesses (such as the arresting officer and toxicologist) give testimony. The students deliberate and render a verdict after the court has already ruled, so as to eliminate any influence. The trial is followed by a question-and-answer session. The defendant receives community service credit towards his fines for participating in the trial. The outcomes are hard to track, but the continued interest and positive feedback from the participants indicate that the program has a strong positive impact on the students. Locally, the continued request for trials from different schools and the positive feedback reflect success. This is a very effective way to reach a large audience and to convey not just the perils of drinking and driving, but also the role of the justice system.

### **Sonoma County**

#### **Courage to Live**

Judge Gary Nadler hopes local school kids will take it to heart when he presents to them the dangers of using drugs and alcohol, especially when it involves driving. In his Courage to Live program in Sonoma County middle schools, Judge Nadler uses the live testimonials of jail inmates and demonstrations of Field Sobriety Tests by local law enforcement officers to show kids the consequences of drinking and driving and using substances. While the program presents factual data to demonstrate the harm caused by drug and alcohol abuse, it also seeks to incite students to take action in their schools to combat drug and alcohol use. Courage to Live targets intervention with kids before they acquire a driving license. Its goal is to prevent drinking and driving and to help youth make more informed and responsible decisions about alcohol use. Through the use of interactive exercises, informed discussion and a video presentation, the children are presented with strategies to make informed choices when facing social situations. The open forum format gives kids the opportunity to discuss realistic strategies to use when choices about alcohol and drugs arise. The National Judicial College created the Courage to Live Program with the sponsorship of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency and Prevention. Through the collaborative efforts of the Sonoma County Superior Court, the California Highway Patrol, local police departments and the Sonoma County Office of Education, the Courage to Live program is presented to middle schools across Sonoma County.

### **Sutter County**

#### **Real DUI Court in Schools**

The court brings real DUI trials to local high schools. It is typically held in a school auditorium or large meeting space and many students attend. The defendant waives his right to a jury trial and a real court trial is held with 12 students serving as an advisory jury. Prosecutor and defense counsel present the case, and witnesses (such as the arresting officer and toxicologist) give testimony. The students deliberate and render a verdict after the court has already ruled, so as to eliminate any influence. The trial is followed by a question-and-answer session. The defendant receives community service credit towards his fines for participating in the trial. The outcomes are hard to track, but the continued interest and positive feedback from the participants indicate that the program has a strong positive impact on the students. Locally, the continued request for trials from different schools and the positive feedback reflect success. This is a very effective way to reach a large audience and to convey not just the perils of drinking and driving, but also the role of the justice system.

# **Tulare County**

#### **Real DUI Court in Schools**

The court brings real DUI trials to local high schools. It is typically held in a school auditorium or large meeting space and many students attend. The defendant waives his right to a jury trial and a real court trial is held with 12 students serving as an advisory jury. Prosecutor and defense counsel present the case, and witnesses (such as the arresting officer and toxicologist) give testimony. The students deliberate and render a verdict after the court has already ruled, so as to eliminate any influence. The trial is followed by a question-and-answer session. The defendant receives community service credit towards his fines for participating in the trial. The outcomes are hard to track, but the continued interest and positive feedback from the participants indicate that the program has a strong positive impact on the students. Locally, the continued request for trials from different schools and the positive feedback reflect success. This is a very effective way to reach a large audience and to convey not just the perils of drinking and driving, but also the role of the justice system.

### **Other Community Outreach Programs:**

#### California Lawyers for the Arts: Innovative Arts Project in California Jails

California Lawyers for the Arts (CLA) is in the third year of a multi-year demonstration project that is evaluating the benefits of arts classes for participants in county jails throughout California. Funded by the National Endowment for the Arts and several private funders, this innovative study uses the participants' selfreported surveys that have been designed in consultation with our principal researcher, Dr. Larry Brewster, now an emeritus professor of public administration at the University of San Francisco. The second edition of this report, updated in April 2018, includes an analysis of surveys from 119 men and women who participated in 10 to 18-week classes in 8 county jails in Fresno, Los Angeles, Santa Cruz, San Francisco, Sacramento, Nevada, Sutter and Yuba Counties. Approximately six to eight additional counties are participating in the project during 2018. The self-reported benefits for the participants included greater self-esteem and communication skills, as well as better relationships with other inmates and staff. These benefits can provide a gateway for further education, interest in learning new things and better reentry outcomes. In addition, county jail staff report a better environment inside the facilities. CLA pays collaborating county arts agencies an administrative fee of \$750 to support the time of coordinating with jail program staff, artist selection and survey administration, and reimburses them for the cost of the teaching artists' fees (typically \$45/hour for a three-hour block of time that includes a one to two-hour class, plus preparation and travel time.) Based on interest expressed by local arts and public safety officials, CLA has asked the California Arts Council to consider funding a pilot project for arts programs in county jails beginning in 2019-20.

For more information about this project visit CLA's website at: https://www.calawyersforthearts.org/arts-incorrections.html Or for more information about this project, please contact: Alma Robinson, Executive Director, California Lawyers for the Arts (415) 796-7692 - alma.robinson@calawyersforthearts.org

For information about program replication, please contact: Ariel Heinicke, Program Development Coordinator, California Lawyers for the Arts (888) 775-8995 ariel.heinicke@calawyersforthearts.org

#### **Pathways to Success**

The Pathways to Success Academy offered through Grossmont College in San Diego County is an equity based restorative justice effort to bring relevant, credit-bearing education to women incarcerated at San Diego County's Las Colinas Detention and Reentry Facility. The program was launched in partnership with the San Diego Sheriff's Department in 2017 to create a pathway to college and a career after incarceration.

The Pathways to Success Academy provides education, skills, connection and inspiration to inmates by transforming them immediately into Grossmont College students. While still incarcerated, they are in fact rebranded as college students, which has great impact on their outlook as they prepare for reentry.

The primary problem Grossmont aims to solve with Pathways to Success is the high recidivism rate of incarcerated women and the lack of opportunity for women with a corrections history. The Pathways to Success Academy is bringing credit courses to many new populations of students and is helping inspire innovation in all of our programs.

As students are released they are encouraged to enroll at Grossmont or any community college geographically closest to their homes in the San Diego Region. Grossmont has developed an initiative to support students transitioning to college on the main campus and has two assigned student success liaisons to help students enroll in courses and continue their education following their release from custody. Each student is paired with a faculty mentor—instructor or counselor—they connected to at Las Colinas. This mentor works individually with students to help access resources on campus and make the transition successfully.

Dr. Katrina VanderWoude and Dr. Nabil Abu-Ghazaleh were instrumental in bringing this College degree program to Las Colinas Reentry and Detention Facility for Women in San Diego.

For further information and to see how you can bring a similar program to the detention facility near you please contact President of Grossmont College Dr. Nabil Abu-Ghazaleh.

#### **Straight From the Pen**

An Emmy-Nominated Documentary about Twenty-Four prisoners who came face to face with a dozen college students on a maximum-security prison yard. The writing that emerged was life-changing, as prisoners abandoned the alienation, disaffection, and violence borne out of self-preservation in favor of openness and honesty. As they learned to write short essays about these challenging topics, they learned even more about their shared humanity. Through their often-intimate collaboration, both groups found hope and humanity in a place where they expected neither. A theme that was emerged from the essays was, as one ex-con would later say, "everyone is redeemable if they want to be." Each week, Dr. Sutton tossed out a new essay topic – childhood, growing up, insecurity, pain, parenthood, loss, and the future. Dr. Sutton also compiled several dozen essays into a book. Robert Brown, community resources manager at Donovan, recalled the writing course as having a positive influence on inmates.

In 2011, Dr. Paul Sutton, then a 30-year veteran criminal justice professor at San Diego State University, started this community outreach writing activity at a maximum security prison. When Dr. Sutton decided to retire in 2015, his wife, Lori Sutton, started filming his final writing class for a documentary. "It is the content of the writing that drives the movie," Paul Sutton said in an interview. The film won the "Festival Theme Award" at the 18th annual Ojai Film Festival. The theme was called "Enriching the human spirit through film." The film also was nominated for an Emmy in 2018.

For more information, please contact Dr. Paul Sutton at psutton@sdsu.edu or 619-444-9844.