



NEWS RELEASE

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA • COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

Post Office Box 122724 • San Diego, CA 92112-2724

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Local Drug Court Celebrates National Drug Court Month

On May 17th, in celebration of National Drug Court Month, the San Diego County Board of Supervisors will issue a proclamation declaring May as National Drug Court Month.

There are now over 1,600 drug courts in the United States, and in San Diego County the Superior Court operates drug courts in several locations for both adult and juvenile offenders convicted of drug-related crimes. The drug court relieves already overwhelmed court dockets, placing these offenders in an environment where they undergo intense treatment and counseling, submit to frequent and random drug testing, make regular appearances before the judge, and are monitored closely for program compliance. Graduated sanctions, including jail time, are imposed for non-compliance.

This year's National Drug Court Month marks 16 years of drug courts in the United States. The success of the drug court system is well documented. Nationally, an average of over 70% of drug court participants have successfully completed the program or remain as active participants, and the cost of drug court programs is significantly less than the cost of incarceration. Drug courts have enjoyed bi-partisan support as a result of the phenomenal success rates and the national attention they have received.

Local events to celebrate Drug Court Month events include:

On May 14th, from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., drug court participants will be part of the Recovery Games held at the Mesa College Sports Field. This is an annual event sponsored by the City of San Diego Park and Recreation Department's Disabled Services Program. It consists of a series of sporting venues celebrating people in recovery from alcohol and drug addictions. It is designed for teens, adults and seniors. The purpose is to bring participants together for one simple reason: to have clean and sober fun. There are track and field events, a banner contest, children's games, and an awards ceremony. A celebration dance will be held from 7 to 11 p.m. at the Balboa Park Club.

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On May 15th, the Drug Court Program of the Court's Central Division is holding a picnic in Balboa Park for the Drug Court Team and Drug Court participants.

On May 20th, the South County Division's Drug Court Program is holding a graduation at the South County Regional Center. The graduation ceremony will showcase the accomplishments of the drug court participants and the success of the drug court program since its establishment in San Diego County. All members of the Drug Court Team—the judge, the prosecutor, the public defender, law enforcement and treatment professionals, as well as the graduates' families—will be invited, celebrating the graduation of this session's participants and National Drug Court Month.

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