



NEWS RELEASE

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA • COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
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16th Annual Youth in Court Day Focuses on Teen Dating Abuse

In an effort to enlighten teenagers about the signs and dangers of relationship violence, *Youth in Court Day* will, once again, feature presentations about recognizing and stopping teen dating violence. More than 900 students are expected to attend the 16th annual event being held on **Friday, March 3, 2017**, where they will be introduced to the court and learn about real-life issues that pass through the courthouse.

The North County Bar Association and Lawyer Referral Service have collaborated with North County Division Superior Court Judges and staff to show students how the Judicial System works and to introduce them to career opportunities in legal systems and law enforcement. The event includes morning mock trials for elementary and middle school students and afternoon educational sessions for high school students.

“For most young people, their understanding of the court system comes from watching television programs such as CSI. Our goal with Youth in Court Day is to give these students a realistic view of the court and basic knowledge of the rule of law and the importance of the judicial system.” says Superior Court Judge Harry L. Powazek, chair of this year’s event.

(MORE)

This year's spotlight presentation, directed toward high school students, will take place at 12:30 p.m. in the North County Superior Courthouse's jury lounge. San Diego Deputy District Attorney Natalie Villaflor and the Women's Resource Center's Lauren-Jane Stephenson will present the students with real life stories of teen dating domestic violence and the lessons to be learned from those stories.

"Our Bar members are pleased to sponsor and participate in this annual event which provides impactful topics that not only help young people navigate through tough issues faced by youth these days but also helps these students become better informed citizens with an enhanced knowledge about our court system." says Mary Silva, Executive Director of the North County Bar Association.

The mock trials will begin at 9:00 a.m. for elementary and middle school students. The educational sessions begin at 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. *Youth in Court Day*, which received a National Community Outreach Award from the American Bar Association in 2005, has attracted more than 10,000 students since its inception.

2017 YOUTH IN COURT DAY

WHAT: *Youth in Court Day*, a nationally awarded program, is held once a year at the North County Courthouse in Vista. The goal of *Youth in Court Day* is to expose North County grade, middle, and high school students to various aspects of the state judicial system.

WHEN: **9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. – Friday, March 3, 2017**

WHERE: North County Courthouse
325 South Melrose Drive, Vista, CA 92081

WHO: San Diego Superior Court
North County Bar Association
Lawyer Referral Service (LRS) of the North County Bar Association

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