



NEWS RELEASE

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA • COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
Post Office Box 120128 • San Diego, CA 92112-0128

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Contact: Karen Dalton
Phone: (619) 844-2353

Teen Pitfalls the Focus of 17th Annual Youth in Court Day

Bullying, teen dating violence, and drug abuse are just some of the dangers today's teenagers face. In an on-going effort to educate high school students about these realistic issues and their actual consequences, the North County Division of the San Diego Superior Court, in conjunction with the North County Bar Association and The Lawyer Referral Service, will host the 17th Annual Youth Day in Court.

More than 900 students are expected to attend the event on **Friday, March 9, 2018**, where they will be introduced to the court and learn about present day problems that pass through the courthouse.

Attorneys will collaborate 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. While the afternoon sessions are directed toward high school students, the one-day event will include morning mock trials for elementary and middle school students

(MORE)

“The Judges of the San Diego Superior Court are delighted to welcome students to our Youth in Court Day and introduce them to the judicial branch of government. Each year we look forward to introducing ourselves, explaining the role of the Courts in the State of California, and giving students a hands-on experience in our trial courts where judges and juries hear testimony, receive evidence, and decide cases according to our laws.” says Superior Court Commissioner William Wood, chair of this year’s event.

This year’s spotlight presentation will be “*Stories from Drug Court*”. During this presentation, high school students will hear from recovering drug addicts who will talk about their journey through the justice system and the reclaiming of their lives. The presentation will take place at 12:30 p.m. in the North County Superior Court’s jury lounge.

“The North County Bar Association members also look forward to this event every year. This event has real impact on our local students and it is so meaningful to have our future community stakeholders get a real sense of our judicial system. We hope they leave this event with tools that will help them in the years ahead.” 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.

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2018 *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 9, 2018**

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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The San Diego Superior Court, North County Division
in conjunction with
The North County Bar Association and The Lawyer Referral Service
presents the 17th annual
YOUTH IN COURT DAY
MARCH 9, 2018

GROUP PRESENTATION
(12:15 - 1:00 p.m.)

STORIES FROM THE DRUG COURT

**Presented By: Honorable Harry L. Powazek, San Diego Superior Court
and Justice William S. Dato, Court of Appeal, Fourth Appellate District**

Students will hear firsthand from drug addicts who have been through the criminal justice system, and who are now on the long and tough road towards recovery.

COURTROOM BREAK-OUT PRESENTATIONS
(1:20 - 2:30 p.m.)

MOCK TRIAL: BULLYING

Presented By: Attorney Joel Bailey and Claudia Plascencia, DDA

Students will learn firsthand about how our criminal justice system works by participating in a mock trial for a case involving bullying and battery. Students will take on roles of the prosecutor, defense attorney, witnesses, and jury during the mock trial.

MOCK TRIAL: DATING VIOLENCE

Presented By: Nicolette Estrada, DDA & Alexandra Knudson, PD

Students will observe a mock trial scenario using a recent high-profile case. Students will observe a domestic violence victim testify on the stand, and they will learn the complexities of testifying against a significant other.

TEEN DATING ABUSE: RECOGNIZING THE RED FLAGS

Presented By: Natalie Villaflor, DDA and Lauren-Jane Stephenson, Women's Resource Center

Teen dating abuse is a pattern of behavior used to control and intimidate a partner. Students will learn to recognize the red flags of abuse at all stages of a relationship. They will receive tips and be given resources to help themselves or a friend who may be in an abusive relationship.

WHY EVERYONE NEEDS A CRIMINAL DEFENSE LAWYER
(Even If You Haven't Done Anything Wrong)

Presented By: Attorney Sean Leslie and Bryana Carey, PD

Criminal defense attorneys are responsible for representing people charged with crimes. Students will learn how defense attorneys ensure that their client's statutory and constitutional rights are protected throughout the criminal proceedings.

SOCIAL NETWORK NIGHTMARE

Presented By: Attorneys Lesly Adams, David Doria, Lionel Halsey & Angela Jenkins

Students will observe a mock civil trial about a high school senior who is suing a university for revoking his early admission and scholarship to its school because of what he posted on his social media page about a fellow student's sexual orientation.