

COURT-CLERGY CONFERENCE 2019

Topic: Criminal Cases – From Arrest to Sentencing

Speaker: Hon. Francis M. Devaney

What are three main points that the clergy should know about this subject?

- Most criminal cases are resolved early, before trial
- A variety of services are available to victims, if requested
- Input from a clergy member who knows and supports the defendant is helpful at several points in the criminal process

What are three ways in which clergy can help their congregants?

- Accompany a victim to court hearings to provide moral support and encouragement
- Submit in writing information in support of a defendant whom you know, providing it to defense counsel, not to the court directly
- Establish programs that are needed in the community to assist with rehabilitation (low cost counseling, parenting programs, AA/NA meetings, volunteer opportunities, etc.)

Three websites where clergy can go to learn more:

- <http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp>
- <http://www.sdcourt.ca.gov>
- <http://www.sdca.org/helping/victims/victim-services.html>

Contact names, phone numbers and email addresses if clergy have questions:

- District Attorney's Office – Central (619) 531-4040
- Public Defender's Office – Central (619) 338-4700
- San Diego County Bar Association (619) 231-0781