



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) 531-4484

San Diego Superior Court Celebrates Law Week

Fostering understanding of the legal system and helping people access the courts are just two of the goals of the 2006 Law Week activities to be held in San Diego on April 29 through May 6, 2006. The San Diego Superior Court, joined by the San Diego County Bar Association, Foothills Bar Association, and the San Diego County Public Law Library, will host a number of events.

"Law Week gives us an excellent opportunity to reach out to the community, show the public how the court works and make the justice system more accessible to all," says Presiding Superior Court Judge Janis Sammartino.

Some of the court-based events planned for the week are:

Saturday, April 29th – 12 noon to 1:00pm - San Diego Superior Court Small Claims Court Advisor Jay Sacks will meet with the public and explain the Small Claims process. The presentation will be held at the San Diego County Public Law Library, 1105 Front Street, San Diego. For reservations, call (619) 531-3900. Space is limited.

Monday, May 1st – Three divisions of the San Diego Superior Court (East County, North County, and South County) will be the scenes of Law Library Open Houses. Except for the downtown branch, Law Library branches are located within the regional courthouses. The downtown event will be held at the main branch of the San Diego County Public Law Library. The public is encouraged to come by and learn about Law Library resources. Since 1891, the Law Library has been a legal resource for San Diego's citizens, both attorneys and non-attorneys. A goal of the Law Library is to make legal information conveniently accessible and easy to find. The open house times and locations are as follows:

Main Library - 10am to 4pm - 1105 Front Street, Downtown San Diego

North County Branch - 9am to 3pm - 325 South Melrose Avenue, Vista

South County Branch - 10am to 2pm - 500 Third Avenue, Chula Vista

East County Branch - 10am to 2pm - A free Legal Clinic will also be provided by the Foothills Bar Association, 250 East Main Street, El Cajon

Wednesday, May 3rd - 10:00am to 3:00pm - The public is invited to a '*Legal Resources Knowledge Fair*.' A Resource Fair will be held at all four court divisions: East County, North County, South County and Central (at the Hall of Justice). Fairs will feature information about a variety of programs and resources available throughout the county to assist people with a variety of legal interests and issues. Information tables will be set up in the jury lounges at the East County Division, North County Division and the Hall of Justice locations, and in the lobby at the South County division.

Thursday, May 4th - 9:00am to 5:00pm - *Law Day at the Office of the Family Law Facilitator*. Private practice Family Law attorneys and paralegals will answer general questions from the public about family law matters. The volunteers will not be working on individual cases or doing paperwork, only answering general questions about Family Law. Volunteers will be located at four locations: Downtown Family Court (1501 Sixth Avenue), South County Courthouse (500 Third Avenue, Chula Vista), and the East County Courthouse (250 East Main Street, El Cajon). In addition, volunteers will answer general questions at the main downtown courthouse at 220 West Broadway, San Diego, about general matters involving the San Diego County Department of Child Support Services.

April 24th through May 12th - 7:30am to 5:00pm - *Student Essay and Poster Contest*. The public is invited to view students' entries in a countywide essay and poster contest sponsored by the San Diego County Bar Association in the jury lounge at the downtown Hall of Justice. The posters and essays depict this year's Law Week theme: Achieving Liberty through the Balance of Power. More than \$1,000 in savings bonds was awarded to students who submitted the winning entries.

In addition, more than eight hundred 2nd through 12th grade students have been invited to participate in a variety of Law Week programs. These programs will offer students the opportunity to view the justice system first hand. Programs will be held at several court locations.

Law Week is a national event that promotes greater understanding of the law, the legal system and the legal profession within the community.