



NEWS RELEASE

SUPERIOR COURT • COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

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

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Court and Bar Host Law Week Events

Law Week, a nationwide program established by Congress over 40 years ago, is scheduled for the first week in May, with preparation and events beginning several weeks in advance. It is anticipated that over 1,500 students from 25 schools at all grade levels, will participate in the various Law Week activities.

This year's Law Week theme is "The American Jury: We the People in Action." Programs will emphasize the importance of jury duty and the integral part that jurors play in the administration of justice.

From April 19th through May 6th, student entries in a countywide essay and poster contest will be on display to the public in the downtown Hall of Justice jury lounge. Winners will be honored at the annual Law Week luncheon on Friday, May 6th.

On April 14th second graders from Fuerte Elementary School visited Judge Eddie C. Sturgeon's courtroom in the Court's East County Division to learn about the court system. The following day, students from Kearny High School participated in a "job shadow" program with East County judges, court administrators, public defenders and district attorneys.

In the Court's Central Division, on May 2nd Judge John L. Davidson will participate in a question and answer session with students from Montgomery Middle School. Activities scheduled on May 4th involve students from Madison, Crawford and Castle Park High Schools. Assistant Presiding Judge Janis Sammartino will speak to the students about the importance of the American Jury. The students will also participate in a mock trial and have the opportunity to visit courtrooms in session. May 5th activities are for sixth grade classes from Kennedy Elementary School, who will participate in a mock trial presided over by Judges Robert C. Coates, David M. Gill, Stephanie Sontag, and Luis R. Vargas.



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In the South County Division of the Court on May 4th, fifth graders from Chula Vista Learning Community Charter School and Fred H. Rohr Elementary School will participate in a mock trial presided over by Judges Rafael A. Arreola, Patricia Garcia, Alvin E. Green, Jr., Wesley R. Mason, and Terry J. Scott.

This past March 11th, the Court's North County Division and the Bar Association of North San Diego County welcomed over 1,000 elementary through college students for a day of mock trials, educational seminars, and a career fair as part of their third annual Youth Day in Court.

Law Week activities are sponsored by the San Diego County Bar Association, San Diego Superior Court, and the Foundation of the State Bar of California. This year the Court received a \$6,000 grant from the Foundation to fund Law Week and related activities.