



NEWS RELEASE

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA • COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
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Tenth Annual *Youth in Court Day* Set For North County Court

More than 1000 students will witness the court system first hand with its real tragedies and real-life scenarios designed to make young people think at the 10th annual "Youth in Court Day." The daylong event will be held on **Friday, March 18, 2011** at the Superior Court in Vista.

Superior Court judges and staff will unite with the North County Bar Association and the North County Lawyer Referral Service to demonstrate to the students how the justice system works and to expose them to job opportunities in law and law enforcement. The event includes morning mock trials for elementary and middle school students and educational sessions for high school students on diverse topics such as gangs, drugs, domestic violence and the potential hazards of social networking.

The highlight of this year's event will take place at 1:00 p.m. in the jury lounge. In this presentation Jeanette, a young girl who was recently released from juvenile detention after being convicted of killing one person and injuring another while driving drunk, will discuss her own near-death experience on the night she took a person's life. She, along with the decedent's daughter, will address the students. *(Media – Please be aware, you are invited to photograph/videotape the presentation; however, you may not photograph the recently incarcerated girl's face and may only refer to her by her first name.)*

(More)

“When you consider that over 10,000 students have participated in our program over the last 10 years, we feel confident we have made a positive contribution to these young peoples’ lives. I look at each student as potentially being a future judge, lawyer, sheriff or court employee in our community. I want them to leave this courthouse with an appreciation of how the justice system works,” says Superior Court Judge Joan P. Weber, who has spearheaded the annual event.

The mock trials will start at 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. 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.

2011 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 18, 2011**

WHERE: North County Courthouse
325 South Melrose Drive, Vista

WHO: San Diego Superior Court
Bar Association of Northern San Diego County
Lawyer Referral Service



San Diego Superior Court
North County Division Welcomes You to
The 10th Annual

YOUTH IN COURT DAY

MARCH 18, 2011

In conjunction with the Bar Association of Northern San Diego County
and the Lawyer Referral Service

Check-In & light lunch: 12:00 p.m. – 12:45 p.m. in Jury Lounge

Courtroom Sessions	Time	Location
DRUNKEN DRIVING DISASTER Hear from a young woman who recently got out of juvenile detention for killing one woman and injuring another in a 2009 drunken driving accident. Hear not only from the offender who will tell you about her own life-threatening injuries, but from the decedent's daughter. The decedent's totaled SUV will be on display in the courthouse parking lot.	1:00–1:45 p.m.	Jury Lounge
GANGS ARE NOT A LIFE STYLE; THEY'RE A DEATH STYLE On a winter evening in 1995 while delivering a pizza, 20 year old San Diego State student, Tariq Khamisa was shot and killed by a 14-year old gang recruit, Tony Hicks. After the case was over Tariq's father, Azim, and Tony's grandfather and guardian, Ples Felix, established a foundation to educate young people on the horrors of gang violence. Hear from Tony's grandfather and the judge who sentenced Tony to prison for 1st degree murder.	2:00-2:45 p.m.	Department 20 (3rd floor)
SOCIAL NETWORK NIGHTMARE See 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 Facebook page about a fellow student's sexual orientation.	2:00–2:45 p.m.	Department 21 (3rd Floor)
THE TRAGEDY OF FAMILY VIOLENCE See first hand the unique problems lawyers face in domestic violence trials with witnesses who are forced to testify against their loved ones.	2:00–2:45 p.m.	Department 22 (3rd Floor)
STORIES FROM THE DRUG COURT - GETTING HOOKED AND FIGHTING TO GET UNHOOKED Hear first hand from drug addicts who have been through the criminal justice system on the long and tough road towards recovery.	2:00-2:45 p.m.	Department 23 (3rd Floor)
CSI - SAN DIEGO Learn about processing and analyzing trial evidence using forensic methods. Hear live testimony from a crime lab forensic specialist about the analysis of blood at a crime scene.	2:00-2:45 p.m.	Department 24 (3rd Floor)
WE REPRESENT ACCUSED MURDERERS, RAPISTS AND CHILD MOLESTERS AND WE'RE PROUD OF WHAT WE DO Hear from several prominent criminal defense attorneys in San Diego as they discuss the importance of criminal defense attorneys to the justice system. They will talk about some of their most high profile cases and the difficulties presented in those cases.	2:00-2:45 p.m.	Department 25 (3rd Floor)
JURY SELECTION ON A DEATH PENALTY TRIAL Lawyers will question student jurors on a hypothetical death penalty trial. The students will be forced to explore their own feelings on these most difficult cases in the judicial system	2:00–2:45 p.m.	Department 26 (4th Floor)