



NEWS RELEASE

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA • COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
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Annual Youth in Court Day Spotlights Perils of Teen Prescription Abuse

North County High School Seniors will come face to face with the dark realities of prescription drug abuse at the 12th annual "Youth in Court Day" at the North County Division of the San Diego Superior Court. Seniors will hear from a family whose son was permanently damaged from abusing the drug Oxycontin. The presentation is one of several programs held on March 8, 2013 at the Superior Court in Vista.

"Youth in Court Day" is a nationally acclaimed program designed to teach students about the law, the justice system and to expose them to law enforcement job opportunities. During the daylong event, students will personally observe the court system and see the real tragedies and real-life scenarios that move through the court.

The highlight event for high school seniors will take place at 12:45 p.m. in the Vista Courthouse Jury Lounge. Sherrie Rubin of the H.O.P.E Foundation will talk with the Seniors about her family's plight. Sherrie's son, Aaron nearly died of a prescription drug overdose and is now a quadriplegic (see attached). Aaron will also participate in the presentation.

"The morning session gives younger students personal exposure to and experience with the workings of our jury system. The afternoon session puts seniors eyeball to eyeball with people who have faced real life challenges, some of which had unpleasant outcomes. Television and the media cannot fairly replicate what the students will experience at Youth in Court. The

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school systems do not provide an equivalent experience or learning tool,” says Superior Court Judge Richard Cline who created the program.

Organized by the North County Bar Association, the North County Lawyer Referral Service, along with Superior Court judges and staff, Youth in Court Day provides morning mock trials for elementary and middle school students and educational workshops for high school students on diverse topics such as gangs, drugs, domestic violence, and the potential hazards of social networking.

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” has attracted more than 10,000 students since its inception. The Vista Superior Court collaborates on this project with attorneys of the North San Diego County Bar Association. Youth in Court and related outreach programs have garnered local, county, state and national awards for the two organizations.

2013 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 8, 2013**

WHERE: North County Courthouse
325 South Melrose Drive, Vista

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



Sherrie Rubin / H.O.P.E.

Sherrie and Michael Rubin's son, Aaron, overdosed on oxycontin October 9th, 2005. He laid three and a half weeks in a coma, on life support. They began planning their son's funeral when, against all medical odds, he began to open his eyes. Aaron survived, but the overdose has left him a quadriplegic and unable to speak.

In 2009 Sherrie began speaking at schools warning students/parents about prescription medications, drugs and the deadly "**REAL**" consequences that can occur by misusing and abusing these drugs.

On November 24th, 2010 Sherrie and her husband Michael founded, The H.O.P.E. Foundation, a 501 (c) (3) non-profit foundation. Sherrie is the executive director. The H.O.P.E. Foundation provides prescription medication and drug abuse presentations independently, and jointly, with the Sheriffs Department, The DEA, The San Diego Prescription Pill Task Force, both public and private coalitions.

Sherrie, Michael and Aaron, have been featured on/ In;

- * *Lifetime Network - **Teen Trouble with Josh Shipp***
(from the creators of **Intervention** and the former **executive producer of The Oprah Show.**
- * *LA Times Investigative Series **“Dying For Relief”***
- * *VH1 - **Dr. Drew Celebrity Rehab***
- * *KUSI - 2 hour prime time special - **Oxy” What your kids aren’t telling you*** (which won the prestigious Mark Twain Award).,
- * *Over 65 + media, projects, including television, radio and print media from 2010 to present*
- * The Rubin family has also been featured in several documentaries;
- * **Parents 360 RX - The Medicine Abuse Project**
(by The Partnership at www.drugfree.org)
- * **“OVERTAKEN”**
- * **“Behind The Orange Curtain”**

Sherrie and Aaron have also filmed several PSA’s for prescription medication and drug abuse awareness and education.

Sherrie, Mike and Aaron have received;

- **Honorary Service Award** -California State PTA
- **A Civilian Commendation** - The San Diego Sheriff's Department - **Sheriff William Gore**
- **San Diego County Proclamation** - San Diego Board of Supervisors, **Pam Slater Price** and **Dianne Jacob** naming Sept. 4th **"The Rubin Family Day"** In San Diego County

* **"Prevention Program of the Year Award 2012"**

The H.O.P.E Foundation received the award October 2012 in from, **The San Diego County Drug Free Coalitions**

* **California Legislature Assembly Certificate of Recognition 2012** - received for "exceptional service and commitment to creating safe and drug-free communities for youth"

* **State of California Senate Certificate of Recognition 2012** - received for " outstanding service and dedication bringing millions of people together to raise awareness of the dangers of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs"

* Sherrie, is also a Founding and Executive Committee Member , of the San Diego Prescription Pill Task Force, 2009 to present.



**San Diego Superior Court
North County Division Welcomes You to
The 12th Annual**

YOUTH IN COURT DAY

MARCH 8, 2013

**In conjunction with the North County Bar Association
and the Lawyer Referral Service**

Check-In & light lunch: 12:00 p.m. – 12:30 p.m. in Jury Lounge

Courtroom Sessions	Time	Location
THE DANGERS OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS Face the dark realities of prescription drug and alcohol abuse from a family whose son was permanently damaged from abusing Oxycontin. Aaron nearly died from a prescription drug overdose and is now a quadriplegic. Aaron and his mom, Sherrie, will share their story.	12:45-1:45	Jury Lounge
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	Comm. Gross Neil Meyers Lionel Halsey Kurt Weiser Steve Burke
WE REPRESENT ACCUSED MURDERERS, RAPISTS AND CHILD MOLESTERS; AND WE'RE PROUD OF WHAT WE DO Criminal defense attorneys are responsible for representing people charged with crimes. We ensure that our clients' statutory and constitutional rights are protected throughout the criminal proceedings, whether they are charged with murder, child molestation or drunk driving.	2:00–2:45	Bradley Patton Sanders Patton
SECRETS OF A SAN DIEGO COURTROOM Go behind the scenes of a San Diego courtroom and engage in a discussion with attorneys, judges, a bailiff and a court reporter about the civil and criminal justice system and what really happens inside the courthouse.	2:00–2:45	Mark Chambers Marian Birge
STORIES FROM THE DRUG COURT 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	DDA Robert Knox DPD Terri Peters
GRAFFITI: TRUTH AND CONSEQUENCES Hear about real cases from a deputy district attorney and a criminal defense attorney. Engage in a discussion about the high cost of vandalism and how attorneys, police officers and judges handle graffiti cases.	2:00-2:45	Rafael Acosta Jeff Lazar
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	Azim Khamisa
WHY CROOKS SHOULD HATE CELL PHONES Your cell phone is not only a communication tool; it is a crime-fighting tool. Hear what the experts say they can obtain from a crook's phone.	2:00–2:45	Brandon Owens Matthew Wechter