

COURT-CLERGY CONFERENCE 2019

Topic: Homelessness and the Role of the Court

Speaker(s): **Angie Law, Chief Deputy City Attorney**, Neighborhood Justice and Collaborative Courts Unit
Michael Ruiz, Supervising Attorney Central Misdemeanor Unit, Office of the Public Defender
Hon. Paula S. Rosenstein, Superior Court, Criminal Division

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

- The majority of people experiencing homelessness do not choose to be homeless which is why the “housing first” model is so important.
- There are a lot of programs and services available which will help most people but limited options for those with mental health issues, families or women and children.
- Getting everyone off the streets is unrealistic in large part because of the lack of support for those with mental illness or dual diagnoses.

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

- Pass on the information you get here and educate your congregants
- Learn about the resources available to clergy – see our handout
- Facilitate contact between individuals experiencing homelessness and providers

Three websites where clergy can go to learn more:

- <http://www.sd-csc.org/>
- <https://www.sandiego.gov/cityattorney/divisions/criminal/smart>
- <https://www.homelesscourtprogram.org/>
- Please see our handout for many more

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

- Angie Law, Chief Deputy City Attorney, Community Justice Division
ALaw@sandiego.gov
- Michael Ruiz, Supervising Attorney Central Misdemeanor Unit, Office of the Public Defender, Michael.Ruiz@sdcounty.ca.gov