



NEWS RELEASE

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA • COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

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San Diego Superior Court Celebrates Law Week

Enlightening the next generation of jurors and court users is one of the goals of the 2007 Law Week activities celebrated from April 30th to May 4th. This year's theme for the national celebration is: *Liberty Under Law: Empowering Youth, Assuring Democracy*. The San Diego Superior Court, joined by the San Diego County Bar Association, the North County Bar Association, the Foothills Bar Association, and the San Diego County Public Law Library, is hosting 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 how to access the justice system," says Presiding Superior Court Judge Janis Sammartino.

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

HALL OF JUSTICE / COUNTY COURTHOUSE

330 & 220 West Broadway, San Diego

- April 19 – May 4** **Countywide School Poster and Essay Contest Display** in Hall of Justice Jury Lounge sponsored by the Lawyer Referral and Information Services.
- May 1** **Justice 101** – 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Eighty-five (12th grade) students from San Ysidro High School visit the court. Superior Court Judge Frederic L. Link will speak to the students about the consequences of making bad choices and the importance of continuing their education. Students will then have the opportunity to visit courtrooms to view trials in session and participate in Q&A sessions with court personnel and a deputy sheriff. Lunch is provided.
- May 2** **Youth Day at Court** - 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
One hundred and forty (12th grade) students from Madison, San Diego and West Hills High Schools visit the County Courthouse. Presiding Judge Janis Sammartino will speak to students about the 2007 Law Week theme. Students will then have the opportunity to visit courtrooms to view trials in session, conduct a mock trial, be treated to a pizza lunch and participate in Q&A sessions with an attorney from the San Diego County

(More)

Bar Association, court personnel and a deputy sheriff. This event is sponsored by the Lawyer Referral and Information Services and San Diego Superior Court Student Outreach and Education Program.

May 3

Justice 101 – 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

One hundred (12th grade) students from Kearny High School will visit the County Courthouse. Superior Court Judge Timothy R. Walsh will speak to the students about the consequences of making bad choices and the importance of continuing their education, students will then have the opportunity to visit courtrooms to view trials in session and participate in Q&A sessions with court personnel and a deputy sheriff. Lunch is provided.

EAST COUNTY COURTHOUSE

250 East Main Street, El Cajon

May 1

Cuyamaca College Job Fair

Two court staff members will speak to college students about court careers at an annual job fair.

May 2

St. Kieran's Catholic School will visit the court. Judge Patricia K. Cookson will speak to 8th grade students about the court system. Students will then will have the opportunity to observe trials in session. Lunch will be provided.

SOUTH COUNTY COURTHOUSE

500 3rd Avenue, Chula Vista

May 2, 2007

On My Honor - 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Approximately one hundred fifteen (5th grade) students from East Lake Elementary School will participate in the *On My Honor Program* which includes a mock trial presided over by a Superior Court Judge. Students will be served refreshments at the conclusion of the mock trials.

Previous Events To Mark Law Week

Youth Day in Court was held on March 9, 2007 at the North County Courthouse. Approximately 730 grammar and middle school students from North County schools participated in "*On My Honor*" mock trials. Over 350 high school students had the opportunity to observe presentations given by Superior Court Judges and lawyers on a range of law-related topics.

Note: The North County branch holds its Law Week event in March because of a scheduling conflict with the schools.