

COURT-CLERGY CONFERENCE 2022

Topic: Criminal Law and Recent Reforms

Speakers: Hon. Roderick W. Shelton
Hon. Selena Epley

Moderator: Hon. Lisa Rodriguez

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

- Most criminal cases are resolved early, before trial
- A variety of services are available to victims, if requested
- Input from a clergy member who knows and supports the defendant is helpful at several points in the criminal process

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

- Accompany a victim to court hearings to provide moral support and encouragement
- Submit information in writing in support of a defendant whom you know, providing it to defense counsel, not to the court directly
- Establish programs that are needed in the community to assist with rehabilitation (low cost counseling, parenting programs, AA/NA meetings, volunteer opportunities, etc.)

Websites where clergy can go to learn more:

- <https://www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp.htm>
- <https://www.sdcourt.ca.gov>
- <https://www.sdcda.org/helping/victims/victim-services.html>
- https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/public_defender

Contact information if clergy have questions:

- District Attorney's Office – Central (619) 531-4040
- Public Defender's Office – Central (619) 338-4700
- San Diego County Bar Association – (619) 231-0781