



SUPERIOR COURT OF
CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SAN JOAQUIN

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PRESS RELEASE

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DUI COURT IN SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY RECEIVES CONTINUED FUNDING

STOCKTON – The Superior Court of California, County of San Joaquin, has been awarded a \$623,000 continuation grant to support the DUI Court Program and the Choices and Consequences school outreach program. Funding for these programs was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Funding will support program operations and services between October 1, 2021 and September 30, 2022. The San Joaquin DUI Court Program, a model court in the state of California, targets all repeat offenders in Stockton. It is a unique two-track model designed by Judge Richard Vlavianos. Its Treatment Track is designed for substance-dependent or -addicted offenders and focuses on providing substance abuse treatment in conjunction with continuous alcohol monitoring, drug testing and regular court appearances. The other track is designed for offenders who do not have a dependence or addiction problem and it is focused on monitoring and regular court appearances. Currently the program has a caseload of nearly 450 individuals.

"Our community has experienced a significant reduction in DUI repeat offenses, indicating that local efforts are producing great results," said Judge Richard Vlavianos, who started the program in 2008. "There are also fewer DUI-related fatalities and injuries thanks to the ongoing support of the Office of Traffic Safety and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration."

DUI convictions in the Stockton judicial district have declined drastically by 66 percent since the inception of DUI Court. Collaborative Courts is looking forward to the long-awaited expansion of DUI Court to South County. This will ensure our recidivism statistics and increased community safety spread to our Manteca, CA and Tracy, CA community.

The grant also funds the Choices and Consequences school outreach program to educate middle school and high school students on the dangers of driving while under the influence. The court presents the program across San Joaquin County, expects to reach about 4,000 students this year. The program includes real DUI sentencing hearings, a prison panel discussion, testimonials from real DUI offenders and other information.

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