

SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT COURTROOM to SCHOOL ROOM

1999-2000 REPORT CARD

In the early months of our community-focused planning program which began in February of 1999, we committed to focusing our outreach efforts on our youth. Our youth represent the citizens of tomorrow and we felt we could have a positive impact on their development. Consistent with this commitment, we created our "Courtroom to the School room" program.

Courtroom to School room consists of four components: our Classroom Speaker Program, Courthouse Tours Program, First Impressions Program, and Youth Mentoring Program. The following represents our report card for October 1999 to June 2000.

UCLASSROOM SPEAKER PROGRAM - Four programs were developed for presentation to Middle and High School Students. They are listed below along with the total number of presentations made between October of 1999 and the end of the traditional school year in June 2000. Also listed is the total number of Career Day presentations we made during the school year.

While we did not count the actual number of students in each class, using a conservative number of 25 students per class, we estimate we made presentations to **2,925** students.

- The Courts as the Third Branch of Government and the Importance of Jury Service -42 presentations
- Common Issues for Youthful Drivers, Traffic Laws and Penalties - 24 presentations
- Juvenile Law and You -7 presentations
- Family Law and You -2 presentations
- Career Days -42 presentations

UCOURTHOUSE TOURS - Our Courthouse Tours program includes a tour of the courthouse and an opportunity to watch actual court proceedings. The highlight of the tour is a presentation by a judge and the judge's staff. The judge and staff discuss their jobs and their career paths. The goal is to provide students with real life information about what happens in court and open their eyes to career opportunities which may not have been previously considered.

During the school year, 14 classes or groups consisting of **515** students experienced a tour. The Court thanks the County Bar Foundation for their donation of \$2,000 to be used to pay the transportation costs of future field trips.

UFIRST IMPRESSIONS - Modeled after the Los Angeles Municipal Court's award winning First Impressions Program, our program was designed for fifth graders and designed to target students in areas where youth are likely to develop negative impressions of the justice system early in life. The goals were to give them access to a quality education about the justice system and nonviolent dispute resolution, to expose them to justice system personnel, and to develop within them positive impressions about the justice system.

In this pilot year, we collaborated with the Stockton Unified School District to select three fifth grade classes in three separate SUSD schools: Garfield Elementary, Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary, and Commodore Skills School. A team consisting of a judge, a deputy district attorney, and a deputy public defender taught five to seven classes. These classes consisted of age and grade level appropriate exercises developed by the Los Angeles based Constitutional Rights Foundation and modified to be consistent with the California Curriculum Standards. The highlight of the program was a trip to the courthouse and a mock trial done by each class involving the prosecution of Big Bad Wolf for the death of two of the three Pig brothers.

This program reached **80** students, and was very well received by the students and their teachers. The students wished they could have had more classes, and each teacher praised the program and is ready to do it again. We plan to double the size of the program next year by doing three classes in the Fall of 2000, and three more in the beginning of 2001.

The Court thanks the teachers of each class: Niita Burton of Garfield Elementary, Valerie Standridge of Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary, and Michael Gake of Stockton Commodore Skills School for their participation in and support of the program. The Court also thanks Deputy District Attorneys, Gus Barrera, Leslie Martin, and Xapuri Villapudua and Deputy Public Defenders Jennifer Perkins and Elvira Lua and former Deputy Public Defender Daniel Ramirez (Now Deputy County Counsel) for their enthusiastic support and commitment to the program. Linda Luna, a curriculum specialist at SUSD, modified the program to fit into the California Curriculum Standards voluntarily. She deserves special commendation. Finally, Carl Toliver, Associate Superintendent at SUSD, has been extremely supportive to all of our programs and his forward thinking philosophy is a great asset to SUSD's students.

USUMMER YOUTH MENTORING PROGRAM - This summer, the Superior Court, the District Attorney's Office, the Public Defender's Office, and two private attorneys, Kevin Ford and Jeff Silvia, will participate in the Court's Summer Youth Mentoring Program.

16 students have signed up for this service learning experience. This four week program will be held during the first part of the summer. It is designed to provide high school juniors and se-

iors with firsthand insight into the judicial system, an opportunity to work in a professional environment, and mentoring by justice system professionals. Judges, court staff, and attorneys will provide the work sites and mentoring for the students.

UPARTICIPATING SCHOOLS - We sent letters advertising our programs to the principal of each middle school and high school, both public and private, within San Joaquin County in May of 1999 and again in September of 1999. An article was published in "Outlook," the monthly publication of the San Joaquin County Office of Education. "Outlook" is received by every teacher in the County. Various articles were written in local newspapers concerning our efforts as well. We also engaged in personal follow-up discussion with principals, teachers, and counselors who expressed interest.

The following schools took advantage of our Courtroom to Schoolroom Programs this past year. If your child's school is not listed, it's not because we turned your school down. Rather, it is because they did not contact us. You might mention our programs to your child's educators. If they reach out to us, we will be happy to try to accommodate their requests.

Annunciation School
Bear Creek High School
California Youth Authority-O.H. Close
California Youth Authority-Karl Holton
Carden School
Children's Home of Stockton
Clover Middle School
Commodore Skilts Schools
Edison High School
Franklin High School
Fremont Middle School
Garfield Elementary School
Golden Valley School
Golden West School
Hafley Elementary School

Hamilton Middle School
Home Schooling Community
Jefferson School
Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School
August Knodt School
Lincoln High School
Lindberg Educational Center
Linden High School
Marshall Middle School
Leroy Nichols School
Ripon Christian High School
San Joaquin County Community School
St. Mary's High School
Stagg High School
Walterloo School
Waverly School
Webster Middle School
West High School
Willow School
John R. William Middle School
Zion Middle School

UFIRST-YEAR GRADES - Our goal was to put in place all four components of our Courtroom to Schoolroom Program during this first year. We achieved our goal, but surpassed our expectations. Over **3,500** youth from **36** schools and educational programs have been reached by our programs in this first year. We are pleased to provide this service to our community and look forward to doing more in the years to come.

UCONTACTING THE COURT - Teachers or administrators seeking to schedule a Courtroom to Schoolroom program should contact Deputy Court Administrator Annette Kirby at 468-2822 or annette.kirby@courts.san-joaquin.ca.us



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