



The Superior Court
COUNTY OF SAN JOAQUIN
180 E. WEBER AVENUE
STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA 95202

TELEPHONE
(209)992-5555
WEBSITE
www.sjcourts.org

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Press Contact: Jennie Rodriguez-Moore, Collaborative Court Analyst
(209) 992-5515

DUI COURT IN SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY RECEIVES CONTINUED FUNDING

STOCKTON – The Superior Court of California, County of San Joaquin, has been awarded a \$650,000 continuation grant to support the DUI Court Program and the Choices and Consequences school outreach program, and to implement a DUI Latino Outreach Program.

Funding is provided by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) through the California Office of Traffic Safety and will be used to support program operations and services between October 1, 2017 and September 30, 2018. "The ongoing support that the Court has received from the Office of Traffic Safety and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has made a tremendous impact in our community thus far by helping us meet our goals of reducing the number of alcohol-related collisions and reducing the rate of repeat offenses," said Judge Richard Vlavianos, who started the program in 2008. "We are grateful for the continued partnership, which has achieved improved safety on the roadways and helps hundreds of DUI offenders regain control of their lives."

The San Joaquin DUI Court Program is a model court in the state of California. 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 approximately 500 individuals.

A 2012 study of San Joaquin County's DUI Court by NPC Research documented a one-third decrease in recidivism and a 50% reduction in alcohol related collisions among participants of the DUI Court. During the same time frame, San Joaquin County reduced the number of fatalities and injuries in alcohol involved collisions by 41%, according to data from the California Highway Patrol's Statewide Integrated Traffic Records System. The County also improved its traffic safety ranking with OTS, going from the 17th worst to the 4th best.

DUI Court Program is part of the Collaborative Courts Department of the Superior Court of California, County of San Joaquin. Collaborative Courts operates eight court programs that combine judicial supervision with monitoring and rehabilitation services. The goals are to improve public safety and client outcomes by addressing the core issues that contribute to criminal behavior.

The grant also funds the Choices and Consequences school outreach program to educate students about the dangers of driving while under the influence. In addition, this year, it will allow the court to implement a DUI Latino Outreach Program, a prevention-centered program that will be presented in Spanish at various venues.