

FOCUSED ON THE COMMUNITY

An Update on the Community-Focused Planning Activities
of the San Joaquin County Superior Court
Fall 2000

PERMANENT COURT & COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD

The court's Long-Range Strategic Plan calls for the establishment of a permanent court-community advisory board. At the July Bench meeting, the court voted to approve the Planning Team's recommendation to convert the current Community-Focus Planning Team as constituted to a permanent board. The Planning Team will meet quarterly. The following mission statement which describes the responsibilities of the Planning Team was also approved.

The mission of the Community-Focused Planning Team shall be to:

- Serve as a court and community advisory body for the Superior Court.
- Provide community input for the evaluation and/or implementation for the planning goals and strategies outlined in the Superior Court's Long-Range Strategic Plan.
- Assist the Superior Court in its community-related programs.

SOUTHEAST ASIAN CULTURAL TRAINING VIDEO TAPE

Your Superior Court received two grants from the California Judicial Council to produce a video-tape for statewide training of judges, commissioners, and court staff. The tape will be designed to sensitize the justice system to the Southeast Asian culture. A total of \$37,000 was awarded by the Judicial Council. San Joaquin County Superior Court is the lead court in this project. Alameda County Superior Court is also participating.

Commissioner Barbara Kronlund is spearheading this effort. She has obtained the assistance of the University of Pacific Sociology Department Head John Phillips, Communications Department Head Qingwen Dong, and Kenneth Day of the Dean's Office.

Over the last several months, Commissioner Kronlund has conducted focus group sessions with staff and judges in both the San Joaquin and Alameda County Superior Courts.

On August 23, 2000, a focus group session with representatives of our local Southeast Asian communities was held at UOP. It was moderated by KXTV newsperson Tim Daly. Segments of the session will be used in the training tape. It is anticipated that members of our Southeast Asian communities will also participate as actors and consultants. After consultation with the education and research arm of the Judicial Council, Barbara Daly, a professional producer, has been hired to produce the video. It is hoped that the tape will be distributed in mid-2001.

SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT TO MAKE PRESENTATION OF OUTREACH PROGRAMS AT JUDICIAL COUNCIL WORKSHOP

On October 11, 2000, the Judicial Council will hold its third

annual statewide Community-Focused Planning Workshop. The outreach efforts of the San Joaquin County Planning Team have been recognized by the Judicial Council. Along with Ventura County Superior Court, your court has been asked to present a segment called, "Community Outreach as a Product of Planning: Seeing the Plan Realized."



COURT-COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AND LIAISON PROGRAM

The court's Long-Range Strategic Plan calls for the establishment of a program designed to develop liaisons between the court and the ethnic and immigrant communities as well as the community of people with disabilities. With the assistance of the Community Liaison Subcommittee of the Community-Focused Planning Team, the court has developed a unique, one-of-a-kind program called the Court-Community Leadership and Liaison Program. To our knowledge, no other court in California has a similar program.

The program has three components. First, participants attend the court's Leadership and Liaison Academy which covers general topics related to the justice system. Individuals who attend the Academy will then be available to answer questions about the justice system from people in their community or direct them to someone in the justice system for the answer. Third, participants will serve as representatives for their communities and meet with representatives of the court on a regular basis to discuss court-related concerns of their communities.



15 participants are currently attending the Academy classes one night a week through December 7, 2000. These individuals have been selected by organizations representing their various communities. The participants are:

- *African American Community* - Bobby Bivens, Mary Fenoy-Kelly, Tony White.
- *Cambodian Community* - Bunna Hang, Joseph Theng Khien, Peter Poeung, Sophat Sorn.
- *Community of People with Disabilities* - Richard Gross.
- *Filipino Community* - Winnie Llamera.
- *Hmong and Lao Community* - Pheng Lo, Oudomasak Prohm.
- *Latino Community* - Diana Guerra, Sonia Rodriguez, Adrian Vera.
- *Vietnamese Community* - Lihn Trinh.

In addition to class presentations, Academy participants will also visit the San Joaquin County Jail, San Joaquin County Juvenile Hall, the Superior Court and administrative offices. It is also anticipated they will observe oral arguments at the Third District Court of Appeals.

Class topics and Academy presenters are:

- *The Courts as the Third Branch of Government* - Judge William Murray
- *Fundamental Criminal Law and Procedure* - Judge Richard Vlavianos
- *Unlawful Sexual Intercourse with Minors* - Chief Deputy District Attorney Daniel Bonnet

- *Domestic Violence Court* - Judge Anthony Lucaccini, Chief Deputy District Attorney Craig Holmes, and representatives from the Women's Center and Stockton Police Department
- *Adult Probation* - Chuck LaCroix and Emi Fuji, San Joaquin County Probation Department
- *Family Law* - Commissioner Robin Appel
- *Pro per Services* - Herbert Horstmann, Family Law Facilitator
- *Juvenile Dependency* - Judge John Parker, Deputy County Counsel Janine Molgaard, and Denny Ah-Tye of Child Protective Services
- *Drug Court* - Judge Rolleen McIlwrath.
- *Traffic Laws and Penalties* - Judge Richard Vlavianos
- *Juvenile Delinquency* - Judge Michael Platt
- *Small Claims* - Commissioner Barbara Kronlund
- *Fish and Game* - Deputy District Attorney David Irey
- *Criminal Defense Services* - Gerald Gleeson, San Joaquin County Public Defender
- *Legal Services* - Melody Tolmie, Lawyer Referral Services, Gina Johnston, Family Law Service Center.
- *Jury Issues* - Judge William Murray, Deputy Court Executive Officer and Deputy Jury Commissioner Annette Kirby
- *Our Local Justice System and Who to Call When You Have a Question* - Court Executive Officer Jeanne Millsaps, Deputy Court Executive Officer Annette Kirby

JUVENILE TRAFFIC COURT

During our focus group meetings last year, it was suggested that the court hear juvenile traffic cases in each of the branch courts instead of at the Juvenile Justice Center in French Camp. After several months of planning, coordination with law enforcement and training staff, the court is now prepared to hear these cases in Lodi, Manteca, Stockton, and Tracy. Beginning November 1, 2000, law enforcement and the parents of juveniles will no longer have to journey to French Camp on these cases.

OUTREACH PROGRAM CATALOG

Judge Stephen Demetras, chair of the Publications Subcommittee, has completed a catalog of all of our outreach programs. Entitled *Focus on Community Services: A Guide to Local Court Programs*, the booklet includes a complete description of all outreach programs implemented both before and after our community-focused court planning effort began. The booklet is at the printers, and we expect it will be published sometime later this Fall.

SUMMER YOUTH MENTORING PROGRAM - CLASS OF 2000

The first Superior Court Summer Youth Mentoring Class concluded in July. The students were very pleased with the program, and the mentors felt good about the experience as well.

The program will be available next year, and the court will receive a grant from the County Office of Education's Partnership for Tomorrow Program to pay students a minimum wage salary next summer. The program is currently available to students seeking to fulfill their senior project requirement.

A brochure explaining the program and including comments from the Class of 2000 has been created and available for schools seeking to place students in this program.

JUDGES BACK IN SCHOOL - SECOND YEAR OF COURTROOM TO SCHOOLROOM

The Superior Court is back in the classroom. If you would like your child to benefit from our Classroom Speaker Program, Courthouse Tours Program, or Summer Youth Mentoring and Senior Project program, contact your child's teacher or principal. For more information or to arrange a speaker or tour, contact Annette Kirby at (209) 468-2822.



NEXT ISSUE - JURY SERVICE IN SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY, NEW AND IMPROVED COURT WEBSITE



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