

**San Joaquin County
SUPERIOR COURT**

**Progress Report:
Community-Focused
Court Planning**

February 1999 - October 2001



**San Joaquin County Superior Court
Progress Report:
Community-Focused Court Planning
February 1999 - October 2001**

**Youth and Education
Courtroom to Schoolroom**

Report Card

The Courtroom to Schoolroom program is going into its third year. During the school years of 1999-2000 and 2000-2001, about **5,950** students from **54** San Joaquin County schools participated in our Courtroom to Schoolroom programs.¹

Classroom Speaker Program

The Court has developed four presentations to educate youth about the justice system. Using a conservative figure of 25 students per class, we estimate that in two years we have reached **3,125** students in **125** presentations. A brochure on these programs is available.

Combined School Years - 1999-2000 and 2000-2001

“Courts as the Third Branch of Government and the Importance of Jury Duty”	79 Presentations
“Juvenile Law and You”	17 Presentations
“Common Issues for Youthful Drivers, Traffic Laws and Penalties”	27 Presentations
“Family Law and You”	2 Presentations
Total	125 Presentations

¹See Appendix A for a list of participating schools.

We have also developed written materials for our civics presentation, “*The Courts as the Third Branch of Government and the Importance of Jury Service.*” This program covers elements of the California Content Standards for 8th and 12th graders. Our booklet “*The Courts as the Third Branch of Government*” has proved useful to teachers preparing their students for the *Third Branch* presentation. Indeed, teachers have indicated that they themselves have learned from reading the booklet.

In addition, judges and other court personnel have made **50** appearances over the last two years at school sponsored career days. Using a conservative estimate of 25 students per appearance means we have reached another **1,250** students.

Courthouse Tours

During the last two school years, **33** classes or groups of classes consisting of **1,002** students have toured the Courthouse. Generally, each tour includes a presentation by a judge and courtroom staff. Students learn the roles of the judge, attorneys, clerk, bailiff, and court reporter. Attorneys in the District Attorney’s Office and from the defense bar also volunteer information about their responsibilities, when they’re present. In addition to providing information about the jobs of these justice system professionals and their career paths, this program opens young eyes to career opportunities that might not have otherwise been considered.

First Impressions

The First Impressions Program primarily targets students from Stockton neighborhoods where negative impressions about the justice system may be developed early in life. A team including a judge, prosecutor and a criminal defense attorney teaches one class per week for five to seven consecutive weeks. These sessions provide students with a basic understanding of the three branches of government, their rights under the Fifth and Sixth Amendments, and the workings of the justice system.

The highlight is a mock trial done by the students in an actual courtroom at the Stockton Branch of Superior Court. The case is based on the story of the Three Little Pigs. The Big Bad Wolf is charged with the “homicide” of two of the Pig Brothers. After the verdict, students are treated to pizza, cookies, and soda.

Later, the students and their schools receive certificates in recognition of their participation.

This program was implemented during the second semester of the 1999-2000 school year. 5th grade classes in Stockton Unified's Garfield Elementary, Martin Luther King, Jr., Elementary and Commodore Skills Schools were selected. We reached **80** students in the first year of this program.

During our second year, about **300** 5th graders in six separate schools participated. One class at Lincoln Unified's Village Oaks School participated. Five Stockton Unified Schools participated, including two classes at August Elementary, one class at Garfield Elementary, one class at Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary, one class at Monroe Elementary, and one class at Kennedy Elementary. Each of these classes benefitted from presentations by a Judge and two lawyers. At Kennedy Elementary, three other 5th grade classes were taught our First Impressions curriculum by their teachers. Those students and the students in the other two 5th grade classes at Village Oaks came to the Stockton Courthouse to watch the mock trial conducted by their schoolmates.

U.C. Davis Early Education Outreach Program

This year the Court partnered with UC Davis and Stockton Unified's Marshall and Hamilton Middle Schools in the UCD Early Education Outreach Program (EEOP). This program focuses on schools that have racially, ethnically, and socio-economically diverse student bodies. It is designed to show real life examples of the application of academic disciplines.

Marshall and Hamilton students were exposed to forensic science and the law. Professors from UCD gave the students instruction on forensic science issues. A San Joaquin County Superior Court judge gave instruction on the court system, jury service and an outline of jury trial procedures. An attorney from both the San Joaquin County District Attorney's Office and the San Joaquin County Public Defender's Office served as coaches in mock trial competitions at Marshall and Hamilton. The best prosecution and defense team from each campus then participated in a mock trial in an actual courtroom in the Stockton Courthouse. Approximately **150** students participated.

Summer Youth Mentoring and Leadership Academy

A major component of the Courtroom to Schoolroom Program is the Summer Youth Mentoring Program and Leadership Academy. This program has

three main goals: to provide an accurate education about the justice system, to encourage participating students to become good citizens and leaders in the community, and to encourage youth to pursue careers in the justice system, preferably in San Joaquin County. Youth from diverse backgrounds participate. The program is intended for high school juniors and graduating seniors, but motivated sophomores and freshmen have also participated. **43** San Joaquin County students have benefitted from this program during its first two years.

Activities take place during a four-week period between mid-June and mid-July. Students spend four hours a day for five days a week observing various aspects of the justice system. One day a week is spent with a justice system professional who serves as a mentor. The mentors include judges, court administrative personnel, court reporters, bailiffs, and attorneys from the District Attorney's Office, the Public Defender's Office, and from private law firms. Students are paired with mentors based on their career interests. The mentors provide personal insight into the justice system and their career paths.

On the other days of the week, students rotate through courtrooms to watch different court proceedings, including criminal and civil jury trials, family law cases, DUI Arraignments, Drug Court, Domestic Violence Court, and the Jury Duty Compliance & Education Court.

Class presentations are made to the students on the following subjects:

The Courts as the Third Branch of Government

Criminal Law and Procedure

Traffic Law and Issues for Youthful Drivers

Jury Duty

Juvenile Probation

Crime Scene Investigation

Substance Abuse

Statutory Rape Laws

To provide a more complete picture of the justice system, students go on field trips, including a complete tour of the Stockton Courthouse and the County Board of Supervisors chambers, a tour of the County Jail and the Stockton Police Department. They are also taken to the Third District Court of Appeals in Sacramento where they watch appellate proceedings and have the opportunity to talk to appellate justices.

Students who successfully completed the program this year earned a cash award funded by a grant from the County Office of Education's Partnership for Tomorrow Program. Students are then encouraged to share their new insights with their peers, by arranging formal presentations to their classmates by justice system professionals on a topic of their choice.

Below are some comments from the 2000 and 2001 students.

Class of 2001

"I believe this is not a chance given to people like me everyday. This program has taught me many things that I know will help me in my career along the way."

"I would recommend this to every single person in every single city! . . . This is the best program I have ever been through or have ever heard of. I can't wait to come back here years from now, as a lawyer, and thank everybody for my first steps into my career."

". . . it was the most uplifting experience I ever had."

"It made me understand and realize that law is a part of me. I am convinced that I want to be a lawyer."

". . . it was the best experience I've ever experienced. I would recommend it to everyone . . ."

Class of 2000

"The judge that I had helped me decide that I can do anything."

"Much of the 'law' that is known to the general public is misconceptions or 'Hollywood.' This program did a wonderful job of teaching and illustrating the judicial processes."

“Before this program, I was hesitant about entering the legal profession. Now, however, I feel it could very well be the profession for me.”

“The program really helped me a lot on my decisions in life. It actually influenced me to consider other careers in law enforcement.”

“This program is a great learning experience. You get to see everything that your mentor does. You learn a lot in so little time.”

“I really learned a lot, which I believe will benefit me in the future. . . This awesome experience will lead me to think about what career is the right one for me.”

“I believe all teenagers should take part in a program such as this because it shows one the essence and fundamentals of our nation’s government.”

Jury Service Improvements

In a concerted effort to enhance the jury service experience in San Joaquin County, the Court has done the following:

1999

Live Judicial Orientations - The Court now provides live orientations by judges for people summoned for jury service in the Stockton Branch. These prospective jurors are also given an opportunity to ask questions of the judge.

Jury Service Information Pamphlet - The Court developed a jury information pamphlet for public distribution. The pamphlet became a model for other trial courts and has been circulated around the State by the Judicial Council Task Force on Jury Service Reform.

Jury Room Improvements

Installed computer modems in the study room of the Stockton jury assembly room.

Replaced antiquated TV monitors in the Stockton jury assembly room. Jurors also now enjoy select Direct TV channels while waiting assignment to a courtroom.

Jury Service Compliance and Education Program – This program was initiated by the Court on June 1, 1999. In January of 2001, the California Judicial Council recognized our program with one of only 14 Ralph N. Kleps Awards given this year for innovative improvements in the administration of justice.

School Outreach - Began “Courtroom to Schoolroom” programs which include an emphasis on the importance of jury service.

2000

Jury Service Committee - Established a Jury Service Committee made up of judges, court administrative staff and two members of the public. One of the public members represents the business community. The committee monitors and evaluates jury service issues in San Joaquin County.

Local Rule of Court - Established a new local court rule concerning jury service and deferments for those who have temporary or marginal hardships.

Juror and Employer Appreciation Week - Celebrated the contributions of employers by awarding certificates of appreciation to those that pay their employees while they are on jury duty.

Information for Employers - Created a pamphlet on jury service for employers.

Court and Business Forum on Jury Service - Held a forum for the business community on jury service. In addition to representatives of the business community, the forum was attended by State Senator Patrick Johnston, Assemblyman Anthony Pescetti, a representative from then-Assemblyman Michael Machado's office, and County Supervisor Jack Siglock. At the time, Senator Johnson was the State Senate Appropriations Committee Chairperson and a member of the Legislature's Budget Conference Committee. Based on the concerns of his constituents who attended the Forum, Senator Johnston later advocated to increase jury service compensation from \$5 to \$25 per day. Ultimately, the governor agreed to \$15 per day (beginning the second day) instead of \$12.50 in the governor's proposed budget.

Newspaper Commentaries - Published a three-part series of commentaries in *The Record* on jury service, including answers to common questions and praising employers who compensate their employees while on jury service.

Jury Room Improvement: Mural Project 2000 - Jury room walls became the home of two murals painted by local youth in Worknet's Mural Project 2000 program.

Outreach to Hispanic Community on Jury Duty - Outreach included jury service presentations to the Council for the Spanish Speaking and the Coalition of Mexican-American Associations. Also, the Court created an informational flyer which was translated into Spanish by Council for the Spanish Speaking staff. The flyer is distributed at Concilio offices.

NCOA - Began to use the Postal Service's National Change of Address program to forward jury summonses to the new address of jurors' who have moved.

Source List Updates - In an effort to get more current address information, Voter Registrar and DMV source lists are now obtained every six months instead of once per year.

Parking for Disabled Jurors - Enlisted the Central Parking District to arrange special parking for people with disabilities who visit the Stockton Branch, including people summoned for jury service.

Closer Parking - Obtained the assurance of the Central Parking District that the new Essential Services Building parking structure would be used as overflow parking at no additional cost to the County instead of parking lots that are farther from the Stockton Courthouse. Since then the County moved all juror parking to the Essential Services Building parking structure to free up parking in the County's Hunter Street garage for county employee parking. Now jurors park only one block away from the Courthouse.

2001

Jury Room Magazine Drive - Started a magazine drive with the judges and court staff to stock the jury assembly room with recent issues of publications.

Jury Service Program at Delta College - Jury Appreciation Week 2001.

Jury Service Presentation to Ministers and Community Concerned - Jury Appreciation Week 2001.

Newspaper Commentaries - Published a three-part series of commentaries in *The Record* on jury service issues and the constitutional right to a jury trial.

Web Site Enhancement - The Court's web site now includes reporting instructions for summoned jurors.

Race - Culture - Gender - Language 1999-2001

The San Joaquin County community is made up of people from diverse backgrounds. The Court serves all of these individuals, but some segments of our community have historically lacked confidence in the justice system. In 1999 the National Center for State Courts conducted a national poll on the public's view of state courts. The survey revealed that the public at large, not just members of minority communities, believe that minorities and non-English speaking individuals are treated less fairly by the justice system. Also, many people do experience cultural, language and other barriers in accessing the justice system.

Your Court has sought to address some of these concerns with the following programs initiated over the last two years.

Elimination of Bias Program - October 26, 1999

The Court co-sponsored a program, presented by the Women Lawyers Section of the San Joaquin County Bar Association, to eliminate gender bias. Each judge and commissioner donated \$10.00 to help with the advertising and production. The event was attended by San Joaquin County judges and lawyers.

Court -Community Leadership & Liaison Program - September 2000

There are many people in the minority communities and the community of people with disabilities who have negative impressions about the justice system. Also, there are cultural, language or other barriers to accessing the system. The purpose of this program is to provide these groups with individuals within their community who serve as informational references and who could liaison with the courts. The program serves to open multiple lines of communication and better informs these communities about their justice system.

Last year **16** members of the community participated. This year, **25** more people have signed up. Participants include representatives from the: 1) African-American community, 2) Cambodian community, 3) Community of persons with disabilities, 4) Filipino community, 5) Hmong community, 6) Lao community; 7) Latino community, and 8) Vietnamese community. For the most part, the participants are nominees of community-based organizations serving their respective communities.

The program has three major components. First, participants in the program attend a seventeen-week “Academy” which provides them with information covering general topics related to the justice system and topics specific to the local system. Second, individuals who graduate from the Academy serve a liaison function for their communities. They are available to answer questions in their community concerning the justice system; or they’ll know who to contact to get the question answered. Third, participants represent their communities in quarterly meetings with the judges to discuss court-related problems or concerns in their communities.

The Academy classes are at the Stockton courthouse one night per week for seventeen weeks. Participants also take a daytime tour of the Stockton Courthouse and go on field trips to the San Joaquin County Jail, the San Joaquin County Juvenile Hall, and the Third District Court of Appeals.

The following topics are presented in the Academy:

The Courts as the Third Branch of Government

Fundamental Criminal Law and Procedure

Adult Probation and Overview of the Probation Department

Criminal Defense Services

Domestic Violence Court

Juvenile Delinquency

Common Issues for Drivers: Traffic Laws and Penalties

Proposition 36 / Drug Court

Jury Duty and Jury Trial Issues

Small Claims

Fish and Game Laws and Issues

Juvenile Dependency

Family Law

Pro Per Services

Statutory Rape

Legal Services

Immigration Issues

Interpreter Issues

Our local justice system and who to call when you have a question.

Below are comments made by participants at the first Academy graduation in January 2001.

“This has been one of one of my most fruitful educational experiences I’ve had in life . . .”

“It was an honor and a privilege to be a part of this program . . . The thing that stands out most in my mind is the cultural exchange we had . . . where else could we have learned so much in a short period of time.”

“I would like to thank the Superior Court for providing this fantastic program. . . Personally, I feel like it was a privilege to be in the class, to get acquainted with special people, and also to learn a lot. And from a community perspective, I can see the Superior Court has established a very important relationship with the community. Especially to help remove the barrier, the traditional barrier of my culture.”

“I think everyone associated with the class did a tremendous job, the judges, the teachers, the commissioners, the assistants, really did a stupendous job. . . I’ve already worked with some of our consumers in the disabled community and was able to refer them to the right person at the right time to do the job that had to be done.”

“I think we learned a lot of useful information that we are not only going to take back to our communities, but also for ourselves. I learned a lot about everybody’s culture.”

“ . . . It is very important to understand other cultures. It’s not just our own cultures. And try to demystify all this confusion and hopefully, in the future all of us can work together because the community is built by so many people and not just one racial group.”

“This class really helped me to do my job. It’s really helped me to help the people that I help every day.”

“In the Interest of Justice,” a Training Program for California Judges, Commissioners, and Court Staff on Cultural Issues in the Southeast Asian Communities - July 2001

This program is an excellent example of a genuine collaborative effort between your Court and the community. In conjunction with the University of the Pacific, the Alameda County Superior Court, and California Judicial Education and Research, your Court spearheaded the production of a training program designed to sensitize California judicial officers and court staff to Southeast Asian cultural issues. Released in July 1, 2001, the program consists of written materials and a video. Individuals in the San Joaquin County Southeast Asian communities participated in the planning, and served as actors for vignettes in the video.

Language Lines - September 2001

Non-English speaking Court customers need no longer worry about the language barriers that have impeded their access to court services. The court has contracted with Language Lines, a business which offers skilled and experienced interpreters in 140 languages over the telephone. Originally used for brief court-related events, in September, 2001, Language Lines became available at the clerk’s office counters. In less than one minute, an interpreter can be available to assist counter personnel and non-English speaking customers in the transaction of whatever business brought that customer to the clerk’s office. The court also provides Language Lines services at the County’s information booth in the Stockton Courthouse.

Court Interpreter Training Program Grant - May 2001

In May of this year, the court received grant money totaling \$7,600 to establish a training program for court interpreters. The goal is to identify and train more qualified court interpreters, particularly in the Southeast Asian languages.

Publications / Web Site 1999 - 2001

The Pulse of the Community

A report detailing the public comment received during 1999 community-focused planning activities. Public comment activities included 13 different focus group sessions and the collection and analysis of data from three separate surveys.

Focused on Community Services

A catalog of all of pre and post-community focused outreach programs.

Long-Range Strategic Plan Summary

A bullet-point summary of the planning goals and policy directions set forth in the Court's Long-Range Strategic Plan.

Visiting the Courthouse

A brochure describing the "Courthouse Tours" program.

Courtroom to Schoolroom Program Menu

A description of the "Courtroom To Schoolroom" class presentations.

Summer Youth Mentoring Pamphlet

An informational pamphlet describing the "Summer Youth Mentoring" program.

Courtroom to Schoolroom Report Card - 1999-2000

An annual newsletter describing school activities and statistics related to those activities.

Focused on the Community - Fall 2000 and Spring 2001

A quarterly newsletter designed to provide an update on community-focused planning and outreach activities.

Jury Service Information Pamphlet

A comprehensive review of jury service questions, answers, and general information designed for the public.

What if One of My Employees is Called for Jury Duty?

A review of common questions and answers designed for employers who have employees summoned for jury service.

Web Site Enhancement - www.stocktoncourt.org

The Court's web site was switched to its own server and expanded. New features include on-line availability of civil and criminal case information and reporting instructions for prospective jurors.

Other Implemented Programs

Case and Calendar Management

Established a *pro tem* judge program to ensure that judges *pro tem* are properly trained and scheduled. *Pro tem* judges are qualified attorneys who are appointed by the Court to sit as judges in small claims and traffic cases.

Began Mediation Center of San Joaquin services in civil harassment and small claims matters in the Lodi, Manteca, and Tracy branches.

Court Planning

Made our Community-Focused Planning Team the Court's permanent community advisory board. The Planning Team is organized into three subcommittees: 1) Community Liaison Subcommittee; 2) Publications Subcommittee; and 2) Youth and Education Subcommittee.

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.

Customer Service

Set up a new phone tree with quick access to each branch and information on: traffic cases, traffic school, how to obtain an extension to pay and how to pay with credit cards; small claims cases; civil and criminal records search; and office hours, directions and parking. An alternative Spanish phone tree is also available.

Implemented a "global payment" system, whereby traffic citations received within any part of the county can be paid at any court location.

Began a reciprocal filing process between the Stockton and Lodi

Branches for non-criminal document filing, giving both locations the ability to file and accept filing fees for each other's documents. This process will be extended to all branch locations by January, 2002.

Disabled Access

The Court and County evacuation plan for the Stockton Courthouse has been revised. Many needs of the disabled have been addressed.

Arranged with the Central Parking District to provide court customers and people summoned for jury service who have disabilities with special parking accommodations on request.

Family Law

Established an Employment Efforts Calendar in our main Family Law court. Unemployed parents with child support responsibilities are ordered to participate in programs designed to enhance their education, train them for jobs, and assist them in obtaining jobs. This calendar is held on two afternoons per month. Representatives from the District Attorney's Office, WorkNet, and Community Connections participate. Non-custodial parents are directed to particular programs based on their needs.

Juvenile Justice

Moved juvenile traffic calendars from the Juvenile Justice Center in French Camp to each of the branch courts to eliminate inconvenience to law enforcement and parents.

Established a literacy program for wards of the juvenile court.

Future Goals and Programs

Below are a number of goals or future programs outlined in your court's Long-Range Strategic Plan. Whether resources and funding will become available for some of these enhancements to your local justice system will depend on the public's support.

Annual Public Report

The community expressed a desire to have a better understanding about their courts. In the past, the courts did not do a very good job of providing the public with general information about local programs and operations. Also, misconceptions about the justice system are sometimes gained through media accounts of high profile cases such as the O.J. Simpson case and television shows like "The Practice" and "Judge Judy." One method of response by the court could be to publish an annual public report in which the operations of the courts are described, the judicial assignments are outlined, relevant statistical information is discussed, and outreach activities are updated.

Children at the Courthouse

Children are frequently present in the courthouse, most often through no choice of their own. They are brought to court by parents and caretakers while the adults conduct their own court proceedings. Children are sometimes the object of custody or dependency proceedings. They may also be witnesses when the question of their best interest is at issue, when they have been victimized, and when they witness events that may be the subject of court proceedings. The Court is concerned about what they learn and what attitudes they form from such experiences. What could be done to minimize the trauma? What educational components could be put in place to turn the courthouse visit into a positive experience, or at least a neutral one? What childcare should be available?

Clerk's Office Hours

The Court Clerk's offices in the Lodi, Tracy, and Manteca branches and at the Juvenile Justice Center in French Camp are open to the public for business from 8:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. In Stockton, the Clerk's offices are open from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. It may be possible to keep the Clerk's offices open until 6 p.m. daily, or at least on some days of the week.

Diversity Training

The court in San Joaquin County serves an extremely diverse population. The Judicial Council provides racial, ethnic, cultural, and gender sensitivity training to judges and commissioners. Additional training could be provided locally to judges, commissioners and court staff.

Family Law Center

Cases involving families and youth are a significant portion of the court workload, with many people representing themselves. Often the parties have criminal cases and juvenile dependency cases which run parallel to pending family law matters. Separate court calendars that involve children and families could be pulled together in a central location, a "Family Law Center". Family Law Courts or Family Law Centers have been successful in other counties.

Jury Assembly Room in Stockton - Expansion

The jury assembly room in Stockton has a maximum capacity of 200 people, which is insufficient when there is a large jury call. That causes trial delays. A larger assembly room would eliminate delay and be more comfortable and safe for summoned jurors.

Jury Assembly Room in Stockton - Furniture

About 25,000 people report for jury service every year at the Stockton Branch, gathering in the jury assembly room. The furnishings in Stockton have not been updated since the early 1980s. Seating is old, shabby and rickety. New furnishings would be more comfortable and secure for jurors.

Jury Assembly Rooms - Lodi, Manteca, and Tracy Branches

There are currently no facilities at the Lodi, Manteca, and Tracy branches for jurors to assemble when they report for jury service. Most often, jurors must wait outside the building or in the lobby before the jury selection process begins.

Jury Assembly - Waiting Areas for Seated Jurors in Stockton

Most courtrooms in the Stockton branch do not have their own jury deliberation room. While waiting for a court session to begin, sworn jurors and alternates must congregate in the hallway near their assigned courtroom,

where seating is limited. Witnesses, victims, defendants, family of victims and defendants, and other interested observers also congregate there. Placing jurors in this setting is physically and socially uncomfortable, and they are sometimes exposed to conversations that they should not hear. Sworn jurors and alternates could be made more comfortable in an assigned jury deliberation room or a juror lounge on the same floor as the assigned courtroom.

Jury Service Compensation

Between 1957 and July 2000, California paid those who appeared for jury service \$5.00 per day. In July of 2000, California increased that amount to \$15.00 per day, beginning the second day. People who appear for jury service in federal court, New York, and South Dakota are paid \$40.00 per day. Colorado and Massachusetts pay \$50.00 per day after the first 3 days of service during which employers must pay their employees. Connecticut pays \$50.00 per day after the first 5 days of service during which employers must pay their employees. In fact, 22 other states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico pay more than California. The Court wishes to encourage the Legislature to increase jury service compensation to \$40.00 per day.

Jury Service Mileage Reimbursement

In 1951, the Legislature established a mileage reimbursement at 15 cents per mile one way. That amount has not changed. State workers are currently reimbursed at a rate of 31 cents per mile each way when using their private vehicles for state business. The Court wishes to encourage the Legislature to increase the mileage reimbursement rate for jurors to a level consistent with that provided state employees.

Night Court

The Court hears small claims cases in the Stockton branch the third Thursday of the month at 5:00 p.m. with a limit of 5 cases. It may be possible to increase the number of cases heard and the number of nights when they are heard. It might also be possible to hear traffic infraction cases in the evenings. Expansion of these night court calendars to the Lodi, Manteca, and Tracy branches on a regular or rotating basis might also be possible.

Self-Help Center

The number of people who represent themselves in civil and family law cases continues to increase, having a significant impact on the Court and the public. This creates additional demands on limited staff and resources and may result in more delays and extended court proceedings. The Court is exploring the establishment of a Self-Help Center for self-represented litigants and other members of the public. This could be done by collaborating with existing community based organizations and/or integrating with the existing Family Law Facilitator and Self-Represented Litigant clinic programs. The center could provide educational materials, one-on-one assistance, and referral to non-legal resources to better navigate the court system and understand the judicial process.

APPENDIX A
Courtroom to Schoolroom
Participating Schools
1999-2000 and 2000-2001 School Years

If your child's school is not listed, please feel free to refer their teacher or principal to us. To arrange a Courtroom to Schoolroom program, contact Annette Kirby, Deputy Court Administrator, at 468-2822.

Annunciation School	Claudia Landeen School
August Elementary School	Leroy Nichols School
Bear Creek High School	Lincoln High School
California Youth Authority - O.H. Close	Lodi High School
California Youth Authority - Karl Holton	Lindberg Educational Center
Carden School	Linden High School
Children's Home of Stockton	Marshall Middle School
Clover Middle School	McKinley Elementary School
Commodore Skills Schools	Model Alternative High School
East Union High School	Monroe Elementary School
Edison High School	Middle College High School
Franklin High School	One Law School
Fremont Middle School	Ripon Christian High School
Garfield Elementary School	San Joaquin County Community School
Golden Valley School	Sierra Christian School
Golden West School	St. Mary's High School
Hafley Elementary School	Stagg High School
Hamilton Middle School	Tokay High School
Hazelton School	Village Oaks School
Hirsch Elementary School	Vinewood Elementary School
Home Schooling Community	Waterloo School
Holt Elementary School	Waverly School
Jefferson School	Weber Institute
Kennedy Elementary	Webster Middle School
Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School	West High School
August Knodt School	Willow School
	John R. Williams Middle School
	Zion Middle School