



NEWS RELEASE

Release Number: 29

Release Date: May 16, 2007

JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF
CALIFORNIA
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California Courts Celebrate Juror Appreciation Week

Courts Acknowledge the Important Role Jurors Play in Our System of Justice

San Francisco—Courts throughout the state are celebrating Juror Appreciation Week to recognize jurors for their vital role in the justice system and to show appreciation for their service.

Juror Appreciation Week was established in 1998 by a special resolution passed by the California Legislature that recognizes the vital contribution of jurors in “making the cherished right of trial by jury a reality.” Juror Appreciation Week is held every year in May. This year it is celebrated May 14–18.

The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) has joined in the statewide celebration by distributing DVD copies of *Courts Illustrated* to all California courts. *Courts Illustrated* is a new one-hour video newsmagazine designed to be played in waiting areas of court buildings. The video seeks to engage court users and members of the public who have answered the call to jury service and to educate them about the branch.

The AOC also sent jury managers commemorative magnets and bookmarks that courts may give prospective jurors in recognition of their service. The online jury section on the California Courts Web site (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/jury) provides information on juror qualifications, the juror summons, length of service, the trial process, answers to frequently asked questions, the one-day or one-trial system, and links to jury information on superior court Web sites.

Here is how some courts are celebrating Juror Appreciation Week.

Superior Court of Fresno County: Jurors will be greeted by judges each morning and will be served complimentary refreshments. The court will

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hand out bookmarks, magnets, and certificates of appreciation. The court was presented with a proclamation signed by the board of supervisors recognizing Juror Appreciation Week. For more information, visit www.fresnosuperiorcourt.org.

Superior Court of Los Angeles County: The court has launched a three-month-long jury service awareness campaign, where its vans are being used as rolling billboards to educate people driving on highways and roads about jury service. As part of this campaign, drivers will help distribute brochures on how critical juries are and the importance of responding to jury summonses. For more information, visit www.lasuperiorcourt.org.

Superior Court of Monterey County: Jurors will be greeted by an eight-foot “We Appreciate Our Jurors” banner and will be served coffee and morning treats. A public service announcement by the presiding judge will be broadcast over local radio stations throughout the week recognizing citizens for their participation in jury service. For more information, visit www.monterey.courts.ca.gov.

Superior Court of Sacramento County: Judicial officers will greet jurors each morning. The court has posted balloons and Juror Appreciation Week posters throughout the courthouse and will provide refreshments and giveaways such as gavels, pencils, stress balls, and “got jury” magnets. For more information, visit www.saccourt.com.

Superior Court of San Diego County: The court has conducted drawings for jurors and presented them with tickets to attend local attractions. Additionally, the La Jolla Athenaeum/San Diego Mini Concerts group hosted a free brown bag concert in honor of Juror Appreciation Week. For more information, visit www.sdcourt.ca.gov.

Superior Court of Santa Clara County: Jurors will be greeted by a welcome banner and will be awarded certificates of appreciation. The court will distribute pens displaying the theme “Jurors: Embodying Justice, Serving the Community,” as well as serve coffee, tea, juice, and pastries in the jury assembly rooms. For more information, visit www.scscourt.org.

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The Judicial Council is the policymaking body of the California courts, the largest court system in the nation. Under the leadership of the Chief Justice and in accordance with the California Constitution, the council is responsible for ensuring the consistent, independent, impartial, and accessible administration of justice. The Administrative Office of the Courts carries out the official actions of the council and promotes leadership and excellence in court administration.