



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF
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NEWS RELEASE

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Second Statewide Youth Court Summit to Convene in San Diego June 22–24

San Diego—The second statewide Youth Court Summit will be held on June 22–24, 2007, at the University of California at San Diego (UCSD), Warren Campus.

Participants will include more than 125 youth, youth/peer court staff, juvenile bench officers, education experts, and youth-focused associations who will share ideas and best practices about youth courts. Youth courts offer teen offenders an alternative to the traditional justice system.

This summit is sponsored by the Administrative Office of the Courts' Center for Families, Children & the Courts in partnership with the California Association of Youth Courts (CAYC) and the Santa Cruz County Office of Education.

The topics this year include the diversity of California and its courts, risk factors that contribute to criminal behavior, coordinating efforts to best track recidivism rates, and the effectiveness of youth courts.

Workshops on Saturday will focus on a variety of other topics, including:

- “Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Youth Courts But Were Afraid to Ask”
- “Risk Factors and Brain Development: Contributors to Delinquency and Adolescent Crime”
- “Youth Court Referrals: the Youth Perspective”
- “Graffiti Art Demonstration”

The day will conclude with a vote for a CAYC logo.

The event begins with a dinner and program on Friday, June 22, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at UCSD, Warren Campus. The summit is open to the news media.

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Workshop facilitators include Judge R. Richard Couzens (Ret.), Superior Court of Placer County; Judge David S. Wesley, Superior Court of Los Angeles County; Dr. Justin Cunningham, researcher, San Diego County Office of Education; Mr. Wayne Sakamoto, coordinator, San Diego County Office of Education; Ms. Martine Watkins, coordinator, Santa Cruz County Office of Education's Teen Peer Court; and Mr. Steve Bagish of ArtStorm Aerosol ArtParks.

About Youth Courts

Youth court, a collaborative justice court model, offers an alternative to the traditional justice system. Also called peer, student, or teen court, this court model presents real consequences for first-time offenders and involves teen volunteers and former defendants in the court process.

The youth charged with an offense opts to forgo the formal procedures of the juvenile court and agrees to a sentencing forum with a jury of his or her peers—other teens who have been trained to assume justice system roles, including those of attorneys, court staff, and jurors who determine penalties.

According to the U.S. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, there are more than 1,100 youth courts nationwide and more than 40 are currently operating in California.

For more information: www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/collab/peeryouth.htm.

News media interested in attending the Youth Court Summit should call Patrick Danna, Sr. Court Services Analyst, Center For Families, Children & the Courts, at 415-865-7992 or Daisy Yee, Media Assistant, Public Information Office, at 415-865-8929.

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