



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA • ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS
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5th Annual Youth Court Summit to Convene in Davis June 24–27

SAN FRANCISCO—California’s fifth annual statewide Youth Court Summit will be held from June 24 to 27, 2010, at the University of California, Davis (UC Davis) at One Shields Avenue, Davis, California.

Participants will include more than 100 youth and peer court staff, juvenile bench officers, education experts, and members of youth-focused associations, who will share ideas and best practices about youth courts. Youth courts offer teen offenders an alternative to the traditional juvenile justice system. The summit is open to the news media.

The event is sponsored by the Administrative Office of the Courts’ Center for Families, Children & the Courts; the National Association of Youth Courts; California Association of Youth Courts; and the Santa Cruz County Office of Education.

The summit will begin at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 24, with a dinner program at UC Davis’s Wellman Hall. The keynote speech will be delivered by Rick Minniefield, who works as a health education specialist and is active with Friday Night Live, a program for at-risk youth and juvenile hall students.

The focus this year is *Healthy Decisions for a New Decade* and provides a variety of topics and practical and useful ideas for conference participants. On Saturday, Judge David S. Wesley, of the Superior Court of Los Angeles County, and Judge Richard Couzens (retired), previously of the Superior Court of Placer County, will present a workshop titled, “Everything You Wanted to Know About Youth Courts But Were Afraid to Ask.” Additional workshops on Friday, June 25, and Saturday, June 26, include:

- Facebook Isn’t Just for Friends: The Use of Social Media by Law Enforcement, Employers, and Others
- The Dating Game: Dating Violence and Sexual Assault in Teens
- Develop as a Leader with Community and Web Connections!
- Archie Bunker’s Neighborhood

On Friday, June 25, from 7:00 to 8:30 pm, ComedySportz[®] will perform. ComedySportz is improvisational comedy played as a sport by members of World Comedy League, Inc., and has been seen in many cities nationwide and in the UK. On Saturday, June 26, the keynote speaker will

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be Patrick Maurer, who combines his experiences as a high school English teacher and his improvisational performance background with ComedySportz to empower his audience.

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. A 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 the youth's peers—other teens who have been trained to assume various roles, including those of attorneys, court staff, and jurors, who determine the fate of the offenders.

According to the U.S. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, there are more than 1,400 youth courts nationwide, with more than 50 currently operating in California.

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

Representatives of the news media who are interested in attending the Youth Court Summit should call Daisy Yee, Media Assistant, at 415-865-8929, or Donna Strobel, Education Specialist, Center for Families, Children & the Courts, at 415-865-8024.

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