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FACT SHEET

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Jury Orientation Video: “Ideals Made Real”

California’s first official jury orientation video provides a thoughtful and accessible overview of the juror experience, featuring interviews with former jurors and an introduction to the state’s one-day/one-trial system. While the 14-minute video was designed specifically for viewing in jury assembly rooms to help courts prepare jurors for this important civic duty, it also serves as a valuable public education tool on the essential role that jurors serve in our justice system.

Highlights

“Ideals Made Real” was produced in a courtroom at the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda. The video contains segments on the jury selection process, the trial, and jury deliberations. Four former jurors shared their experiences to make others feel more comfortable and better prepared. For example, one stated that they “came out feeling very positive, more confident about the system ... and if I were called back in again, I would be there to help our community.” Another noted that, “you could have seen juries in action in a movie. But it’s not the same. There’s no substitute for experiencing it yourself.”

Improving California Jury Service

“Ideals Made Real” was developed by the Judicial Council’s Task Force on Jury System Improvements as part of a larger statewide program to improve the juror experience and encourage citizen participation in our justice system. The far-reaching successes and continuing efforts of the task force are described in the fact sheet “Jury System Improvement Projects.” More information for jurors is available on the California Courts Web site at <http://www.courts.ca.gov/jury-service.htm>.

Distribution

The Judicial Council (then known as the Administrative Office of the Courts, or AOC) has distributed the video to all jury assembly rooms in California’s 58 counties, and continues to do so along with other juror educational materials.

Contact:

For more information about the juror orientation video, please direct your inquiry to Stephen Michael Tow, Senior Analyst, Jury Improvement Program, JuryInfo@jud.ca.gov.

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