



**Superior Court of California
County of Orange**

NEWS RELEASE

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ORANGE COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT CELEBRATES NATIONAL DRUG COURT MONTH, HOSTS NATIONAL DRUG COURT INSTITUTE TRAINING FOR COURTS AROUND THE NATION AND ANNOUNCES RELEASE OF ITS 2003 DRUG COURT ANNUAL REPORT

In recognition of National Drug Court Month in May, the Orange County Superior Court will host a three-day training session May 3-5, 2004 to showcase the merits of the drug court program. Ten teams, including judges, prosecutors, public defenders, probation officers and health care providers, from jurisdictions throughout the nation will attend the training sponsored by the National Drug Court Institute. The Central Justice Center drug court program will also hold a ceremony for graduates of the drug court program on Tuesday, May 4, in Department C-1 at 2:00 p.m.

Most participants who have completed the Drug Court program have been successful in their rehabilitation and have abstained from their addiction to drugs. A recently released 2003 Drug Court Annual Report notes that of the 803 graduates, since the program began in 1995, that the recidivism rate has been relatively low with only 20.5% having been rearrested for substance abuse violations.

The 2003 Drug Court Annual Report also details statistics and comparative trends between the participants who are successful in the program and those who are not. The demographic statistics include a breakdown of new admissions by gender, age, race, employment, drug of choice, years of drug use, parental status, marital status and education. For a copy of the Orange County Superior Court 2003 Drug Court Annual Report, contact Teresa Risi at (714) 834-5876.

Drug Court is a multi-agency collaborative effort which brings the justice and treatment communities together. Participating agencies in Orange County include the Superior Court, District Attorney, Public Defender, Probation Department, Health Care Agency's Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services, Sheriff's Department, local police departments, local community colleges and the Drug Court Foundation of Orange County, a non-profit agency committed to providing resources and services to the drug court program. Adult Drug Court operates in Santa Ana, Fullerton, Westminster, Laguna Niguel and Newport Beach. Juvenile Drug Court operates in Orange and serves juveniles throughout the county.

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