



Superior Court of California County of Orange **News Release**

Public Information Office

Contact: Kostas Kalaitzidis, (657) 622-7097

PIO@occourts.org

Nov. 6, 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Operation Mobile Justice

Cal State Fullerton Partners with OC Superior Court on Emergency Exercise

Emergency drills and exercises are standard practice for hospitals, schools, hotels, and many other businesses. But what happens if an emergency — anything from an earthquake to a fire to an envelope filled with what may be anthrax — strikes a courthouse?

See video of the event: <https://youtu.be/8p1Uj8BcLi4>



Commissioner Carmen Luege heard cases that were heard by the Court in the past and have been fully adjudicated, for the benefit of Operation Mobile Justice.

"The Court must be available when parties need judicial intervention," said Kirk Nakamura, Presiding Judge of the Superior Court of California, County of Orange. "For example, abused

spouses, the elderly, and others need restraining orders. The Court may also be called on to issue a gun violence restraining orders under the new laws.”

“Moreover, those accused of crimes must be given their constitutionally mandated right to a speedy trial,” Judge Nakamura added.

For that reason, Cal State Fullerton is working in collaboration with the Orange County Superior Court, based in Santa Ana, to enact an emergency exercise using the campus’s emergency operations center (EOC) as an emergency courtroom.

On Oct. 29, from 8 a.m. to noon, Operation Mobile Justice was “in session.” The court assembled at the EOC which was set up in advance as an emergency courtroom on campus. During the exercise, the commissioner heard time sensitive matters according to civil operations standard operating procedures.

For this exercise, Cal State Fullerton’s Emergency Operations Center was set up as an emergency courtroom. To make the experience as realistic as possible, Superior Court commissioner Carmen R. Luege, was presented with cases that were heard by the Court in the past and have been fully adjudicated. (During the drill, Cal State Fullerton students portrayed those involved in the civil cases. The names of the cases were changed for the purposes of the exercise.)

“The goal, for us and the court, is to simulate as closely as possible, what would be needed during a real event,” said Sue Fisher, emergency manager with University Police. “We are looking at logistics, security, systems — all these areas need to be tested. In the event of a real emergency, if we have to activate this scenario, we want to be well prepared.”

“This exercise tests a variety of skills and is fairly standard practice in emergency management,” said Fisher. “The Orange County Superior Court and Cal State Fullerton signed an agreement to share facilities so this exercise will test that.”

###