

Programs Offered in the Southern District

Bridging the Gap /

FBA “Brown Bag Lunches”

Bring a Child to Work Day

Clothing Drive (to benefit the U.S.

Probation Office’s Clothes Closet)

Credit Abuse Resistance

Education (CARE)

Judges in the Classroom

Life-long Learning (Presentations

to Community Groups)

Open Doors to the Court

Partnership with SDCBA’s

“Children at Risk” Programs

San Diego Book Project



United States District Court Southern District of California

As the trial courts of the federal government, district courts have jurisdiction to hear nearly all categories of civil and criminal cases. There are 94 federal judicial districts grouped into 12 regional circuits. The Southern District of California, created in 1966, is part of the 9th Circuit and has jurisdiction over San Diego and Imperial Counties. The entire western boundary of the Southern District lies on the Pacific Ocean. The entire southern boundary of the District borders the Republic of Mexico. There are international ports of entry at San Ysidro, Otay Mesa, Tecate, Calexico, and Andrade. The San Ysidro port of entry is the world’s busiest land crossing where tens of millions of vehicles and people legally enter the U.S. each year.

San Diego is the 8th largest city in the United States with a population of over 1.3 million people. San Diego County has a population of more than 3 million; Imperial County has a population of more than 175,000. As a major urban center, the Southern District of California experiences the full range of criminal activities present in any metropolitan area. Because of its proximity to an international border, the District continues to be a major corridor for both illegal immigration and illicit drug trafficking activities. It is not surprising that the Southern District ranks fourth in the nation in federal felony filings.

Community Outreach Programs Committee
United States District Court
333 West Broadway
San Diego, CA 92101

Committee Members:

Hon. Janis L. Sammartino; Hon. Barbara L. Major;
Hon. Margaret Mann; John Morrill, *Acting* Clerk of Court;
Veronica Trujillo, Judicial Asst to Chief Judge Moskowitz;
Kathleen McMahon-Walford, Judicial Asst to Judge Miller &
Community Outreach Programs Coordinator



COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMS



Presented by the
Community Outreach
Programs Committee of
the U.S. District Court
for the Southern District
of California

*"He who opens a school
door closes a prison."*
-Victor Hugo

Community Outreach In the Southern District

The Southern District of California has long recognized the benefit of opening its doors for the purpose of offering educational programs to the public. In September, 2009 the Court created a Community Outreach Programs Committee to coordinate the Court's various outreach efforts. The following are some of the programs currently offered in the Southern District of California.

Programs for Children Judges in the Classroom



Since 1993, classrooms of students often take a fieldtrip to the courthouse to participate in mock trials or to hear presentations on the federal judicial system, federal juris-

diction and the law. Alternatively, various judges have traveled to local elementary, middle and high schools to give these presentations. The judges who participate in this program strive to help and encourage students to embrace the concepts of justice and responsibility, to clarify for them the roles of the individual within a free society, to familiarize the students with career opportunities within the legal system, and to convey the message that students who work hard in school will achieve success.

The judicial participants believe that if we can provide



a positive influence, even in a small way, that leads to the success of students in our schools, we will have the satisfaction of knowing that our entire community will reap benefits in the future and our efforts will have been worthwhile.

Open Doors to the Court

Open Doors to the Federal Courts is a national program which welcomes thousands of students into local federal courthouses around the country. The objective is to bring high school students, teachers, judges, court staff, and lawyers together to enhance public knowledge and understanding of the federal court system. The program is intended for high school seniors who have studied civics or United States government. These students and their teachers are invited into the courthouse to participate in a program offered each spring.



Observe Court/Federal Jobs Panels

The Community Outreach Programs Coordinator can arrange for high school students to have the opportunity to observe a specially set criminal calendar which will likely include sentencing and revocations of probation. After seeing court proceedings, the students will hear from a variety of federal law enforcement officers and court personnel about their jobs and the educational requirements that must be met to get those jobs.

CARE Program

The San Diego Bankruptcy Court sponsors the Credit Abuse Resistance Education ("CARE") Program to teach financial literacy to young adults using an interactive presentation with videos to teach about budgeting, savings, student loans, credit cards and other financial issues arising in every day life. Besides participating in the Open Doors to the Court program, CARE Program volunteers travel to high schools and other youth groups around San Diego.

Programs for Adults



The Community Outreach Coordinator can arrange for your group of lifelong learners to tour the courthouses, observe court proceedings and hear from a federal judge about the federal court system. She can also arrange for members of the numerous affiliated offices to discuss their role in the system and how your tax dollars are being put to good use.



Other Opportunities

If your organization or class would benefit from one of these programs or would like a customized program tailored specifically to your students, please contact our Community Outreach Liaison. We may be able to format a program specifically for your group. Programs can be designed for students ranging from 3rd grade to senior citizens. We can coordinate courthouse tours, observation of court proceedings, mock trials presided over by a federal judge, Question & Answer presentations, and federal jobs panels.

Please contact our Community Outreach Program liaison, Kathleen Walford, at 619-557-7824 or e-mail her at

Kathleen_Walford@casd.uscourts.gov to discuss the particular needs of your group.