

## PROGRAMS OFFERED TO THE PUBLIC IN THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

- ★ Essay and Video Civics Contest
- ★ Constitution in Action
- ★ Courtrooms as Classrooms
- ★ Court Works
- ★ Credit Abuse Resistance Education (CARE)
- ★ Self-Guided Historical Walking Tour
- ★ Jobs Panels
- ★ Kids to Court
- ★ Life-long Learning *(Presentations to Community Groups)*
- ★ Open Doors to the Federal Court

## OTHER OUTREACH ACTIVITIES IN THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

- ★ Bring a Child to Work Day
- ★ Clothing Drives *(to benefit the U.S. Probation Office's clothes closet)*
- ★ Porter Readers

For over 50 years, the Southern District of California has served the public by conducting fair and impartial civil and criminal proceedings. In recent times, the Court began actively inviting members of the public to come inside our courthouse(s) as part of our community outreach. The Court has now embarked on establishing a Learning Center. The goal of the Learning Center is to better inform the community of the role an independent judiciary plays in our Constitutional democracy. We seek to promote understanding about what the federal courts do through exhibits, educational programs and tours. By promoting knowledge and understanding, we hope our citizens are better informed and have greater confidence in our judicial system.

The Learning Center grew out of our existing, active community outreach programs and has four components. The first component consists of our ongoing educational programs which are more fully defined inside this booklet. The second component of the Learning Center consists of exhibits. On display throughout our courthouses are exhibits that enhance understanding of the third branch of government and the Southern District of California, including a "Then and Now" Exhibit showing the evolution of this District, the winning essays and videos from our District's civics contest for local high school students, copies of the founding documents, portraits of the judges after whom buildings are named, and court memorabilia (see the "What's on the Inside" brochure for more information on exhibits). The third component of the Learning Center is the Historical Walking Tour. A brochure (also available as a cell phone app) guides guests around the five-block John Rhoades Federal Judicial Center and highlights the historic points of interest, architectural features, and artwork. The final component of the Learning Center is our website. It provides information about the history of the Southern District of California, including videos, information about our Learning Center, and links to additional information on civics education.

We welcome you to come and discover YOUR federal courts.

### Contact Information:

Carter and Keep U.S. Courthouse  
333 West Broadway, San Diego, CA 92101  
Email: [Community\\_outreach@casd.uscourts.gov](mailto:Community_outreach@casd.uscourts.gov)  
<http://www.casd.uscourts.gov/judicial-learning>  
Telephone: (619) 557-6928

# COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMS

*at the*  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT  
OF CALIFORNIA



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



THE LEARNING CENTER  
*of the*  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

*"Building confidence in American justice through  
education and understanding."*

# ABOUT THE COURTROOMS AS CLASSROOMS PROGRAMS

## KIDS TO COURT (GRADE 5 )



Fifth grade students participate in age appropriate mock trials. Federal attorneys assist the children as they present fully scripted mock trial. Students who do not have speaking roles will

serve as jurors and will deliberate and render a verdict in the case. A Marshals presentation may be coupled with the mock trial, or the teachers may take the students on the self guided historical walking tour. This opportunity is offered once/month and no more than 4 classes may participate on any single day.

## COURT WORKS (GRADE 8)

Eighth grade students are invited to watch court proceedings followed by a presentation designed to illustrate how the Constitution is the basis of what happens in the courts every day. Students will have an opportunity to ask questions of a judge or federal attorneys. These programs are offered on select Mondays and Fridays and are limited to no more than 150 students on any single day.

## OPEN DOORS (GRADE 12 )

Open doors to the Federal Courts is a national program which welcomes thousands of high school students into local federal courthouses around the country. The objective of this program is 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. Students will participate in a mock trial, a Credit Abuse Resistance Education presentation, and a federal jobs panel.

## MARSHALS PRESENTATION

In conjunction with other programs, Deputy U.S. Marshals speak with students about the role and duties of the law enforcement arm of the federal judiciary.

## HISTORICAL WALKING TOUR

The John Rhoades Federal Judicial Center is comprised of three courthouses and includes a variety of historical, architectural and artistic elements that can be explored in this self-guided walking tour.

## OBSERVE COURT PROCEEDINGS



The Community Outreach Programs Coordinator can arrange the opportunity for students to observe court proceedings. The students will observe a criminal calendar which will likely include sentencing and

revocation of probation proceedings. After the court proceedings, the students will have the opportunity to have questions answered by either a judge or federal attorneys. This program is typically paired with a Constitution in Action presentation and/or Job Panel (please see below for more information). Court observation programs are offered only on select Mondays and Fridays and are limited to no more than 60 students on any single day.

## CONSTITUTION IN ACTION

The Constitution in Action presentations are designed to teach students that the Constitution is not just a 230 year old document, but actually the foundation for what happens here at the court every day. The Bill of Rights are taken out of the abstract and applied to offenders as they face ramifications for the crimes they have committed.

## 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. For more information visit [www.casd.uscourts.gov](http://www.casd.uscourts.gov).

## CIVICS CONTEST

The 9th Circuit and the Southern District of California partner annually to offer an opportunity for students to explore important topics involved in civics education. The Civics Contest is an essay and video contest open to high school students in the western United States and Pacific Islands. The contest runs from January to April. Teachers who assign participation to all students in their class will be offered the opportunity to have a judge or attorney visit the classroom and give a presentation on the topic. The topic of the contest will be announced in the fall. There are cash prizes awarded for the winners at both the district and circuit levels. For contest rules, entry instructions, and other information please visit: [www.ca9.uscourts.gov/civicscontest](http://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/civicscontest).

## LIFE-LONG LEARNING



The Community Outreach Coordinator can arrange presentations for your group which may include a tour of the courthouses, observation of court proceedings, and an opportunity to meet with a federal judge to learn more about the federal court system.

Jobs panels are also a popular component of these presentations as it allows citizens to learn about the numerous court affiliated offices and their role in the system and how tax dollars are being put to good use.

For more information, please contact our Outreach Programs Liaison, Lisa Christensen at [community\\_outreach@casd.uscourts.gov](mailto:community_outreach@casd.uscourts.gov) or visit <https://www.casd.uscourts.gov/judicial-learning>