



SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Hall of Justice and Records
400 County Center
Redwood City, CA 94063

Hon. Mark R. Forcum
Presiding Judge

Hon. George A. Miram
Assistant Presiding Judge

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Redwood City, CA

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Judge Announces Court in the Schools Day Event

Presiding Judge Mark R. Forum announced today the continuation of the Court/School collaborative project, Court in the Schools Day. Court in the Schools teaches high school students about the justice system and shows the positive role of judges in the community. Each year, members of the judiciary visit high school government classes and discuss a case study based on an actual criminal case. The students read the case before the event and prepare questions or issues to discuss. During the event, one of the participating judges visits a high school in San Mateo County and leads the government classes for the day. Since the event began in 2002, more than 3,000 students have learned about the factors considered in sentencing and learned about issues ranging from the use of circumstantial evidence to Miranda. The program has been recently expanded to include the San Mateo County Deputy District Attorney to highlight the role of the executive branch of government in the criminal justice system.

This year's event will be held twice, once in the fall and once in the spring at the Sequoia Union High School District, San Mateo Union High School District and Junipero Serra High School. In the spring, the program will be expanded to include schools in the northern part of the county.

"This program represents the best of the court/school collaborative," said Judge Forcum, who created the event as a way of teaching high school seniors about the court system. Judge Forcum also noted that, "the case study poses many excellent questions and is interesting on a number of levels. It ties in directly with the schools' curriculum on the court system."

According to one of the participating instructors, Derek Nardo, "the case study was excellent, exciting for the students and ripe with specific examples onto which they could grab. The judge was also terrific. I loved the visit and so did the students."

This week, Presiding Judge Forcum, Assistant Presiding Judge George A. Miram, Judges Joseph E. Bergeron, Craig L. Parsons, John W. Runde, and Marie Seth Weiner, and Commissioner Susan Greenberg will be appearing at all of the San Mateo Union High School District campuses

and Judge Robert D. Foiles will be appearing at Serra High School as part of this program. Additionally, Deputy District Attorney Elaine Tipton is appearing on behalf of the District Attorney's Office throughout the week.