

Superior Court of California County of Orange

News Release

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DUI Court Selected as National Academy Court

Santa Ana, CA - The DUI Court at the Harbor Justice Center in Newport Beach has been selected as one of four National Academy Courts by the National Center for DWI Courts (NCDC). The DUI Court, which is under the direction of Judge Matthew Anderson, is an intensive, empirically based program designed to treat hard-core repeat DUI offenders. Based on the Drug Court model, the DUI Court is a collaboration of the Superior Court, the Probation Department, the Health Care Agency, and the offices of the District Attorney and Public Defender.

"We are honored to be selected as a National Academy Court where we have the opportunity to help improve and expand DUI Court programs throughout the country. The work we are doing in Orange County is reducing impaired driving, increasing community safety, and effectively using court resources," said Judge Anderson.

In addition to the program at the Harbor Justice Center, DUI Court is also offered in Orange County at the North Justice Center in Fullerton, the West Justice Center in Westminster, and the Community Court in Santa Ana. Since its inception in 2004, more than 1,000 people have graduated from the DUI Court program, which has an outstanding record of reducing recidivism.

As an Academy Court, the Harbor Justice Center DUI Court will offer guidance and training to court administrators and justice partners from other states interested in establishing DUI Courts in their own jurisdictions. On Tuesday, March 18, a ceremony will be held at the Harbor Justice Center at which Judge Michael Kavanaugh (retired), Director of the NCDC, will present the Academy Court award to Judge Anderson and the DUI Court team. For more information about the award or the ceremony, please contact Leslie Howard, Collaborative Court Coordinator, at (657) 622-6453.