



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

Public Information Office  
Contact: Gwen Vieau, 657-622-7097  
PIO@occourts.org

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## Special Delivery at Lamoreaux Justice Center in Orange



*Evin Whitfield proudly holds his certificate of appreciation surrounded by his family, Family Law Judges and Commissioners, and the stuffed animals he collected and donated to the Court.*

**Orange, CA** – Twelve-year-old Evin Whitfield made a special delivery of stuffed animals to Orange County Superior Court’s Lamoreaux Justice Center in Orange. Evin was honored at a special ceremony emceed by Judge Clay M. Smith and attended by Family Law Judges and Commissioners, court staff, and Evin’s family. Judge Smith (center, back row) presented Evin with a certificate of appreciation and thanked him for taking the initiative to “make things happen.”

Last April Evin accompanied his mother Titania Whitfield, who works as a collections officer at the Court, for the annual “Bring Your Child to Work Day.” He noticed a display of stuffed animals in a courtroom and learned that every child who is adopted at a Court proceeding receives a stuffed animal to commemorate the newly formed family. The adoptee’s siblings receive a stuffed animal, too.

To help continue this tradition, Evin organized a stuffed animal drive at his school and recruited a few of his classmates to assist with making announcements about the need for teddy bears and other cuddly stuffed animals for newly adopted children. His efforts resulted in a donation of more than 200 stuffed animals! Judge Smith said about six children per week have their adoptions finalized at hearings held on Wednesdays in his courtroom.

Evin is in the seventh grade at Rolling Hills Preparatory School and is on the honor roll. He enjoys participating in school plays and sports. He wants to become a patent attorney and is considering starting a non-profit organization to help children. He plans to hold a stuffed animal drive every year.