



Superior Court of California County of Orange *News Release*

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Superior Court of Orange County Announces 1000 Graduates of DUI Court

Santa Ana, CA – The Superior Court of Orange County and its collaborative justice partners will celebrate the significant milestone of having 1000 individuals graduate from the Driving Under the Influence (DUI) Court since its inception in 2004. Nine participants of the program at the Harbor Justice Center will graduate on Tuesday, September 10, 2013, 3:00-5:00 p.m., in Department H2, 4601 Jamboree Road, Newport Beach, CA 92660.

Superior Court Judge Matthew S. Anderson, who oversees the program at the Harbor Justice Center, said, “The goal of the program is to reduce recidivism among drunk drivers and keep the public safe.” Benefits of DUI Court, also held at courthouses located in Fullerton, Santa Ana, and Westminster, include:

- Since 2004, the program has saved 157,763 jail bed days, resulting in a total savings of more than \$18.3 million.
- Program graduates have a recidivism rate of 6.7%, much lower than the 20-25% recidivism rate of second and third-offense drunk drivers as reported by the California DMV in its 2011 Annual Report.
- In addition to its direct financial benefit, DUI Court also produces a tremendous savings in human lives by reforming repeat-offense drunk drivers – who are likely to cause death or serious injury to themselves or to innocent victims.

To be admitted to the program, defendants must have a second or third DUI arrest, enter a guilty plea to their case, live in Orange County, and not have any convictions for violence or weapons violations. The mandatory jail sentence required for repeat DUI offenses is imposed; however, participants successfully completing the program may be allowed electronic confinement rather than incarceration at a jail facility. The program participants are held to zero tolerance for alcohol and illegal drugs. Participants are tested frequently, supervised, and required to attend individual and group counseling.

The collaborative partners include the O.C. Probation Department, O.C. Health Care Agency, Office of the O.C. District Attorney, Office of the O.C. Public Defender, O.C. Sheriff’s Department, Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), and local law enforcement agencies. Staff from these agencies will be present at the graduation. Media representatives are welcome to attend the graduation. Please RSVP to collaborative court coordinator, Leslie Howard, (657) 622-6453 or lhoward@occourts.org.

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