



Superior Court of California
County of Orange

NEWS RELEASE

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January 25, 2008

**The Superior Court Opens its Newest Court
To Handle Driving Under the Influence (DUI) Cases**

Santa Ana, CA – With the opening this week of a DUI Court at the Central Justice Center in Santa Ana, the Superior Court of Orange County now offers driving under the influence (DUI) court programs at three of its justice centers: the Central Justice Center, the Harbor Justice Center in Newport Beach, and the North Justice Center in Fullerton. Funded by a \$652,697 two-year grant from the Administrative Office of the Courts, through a program of the Office of Traffic Safety, the DUI Court in Santa Ana is currently evaluating the eligibility and suitability of defendants for what will be a 50-person capacity program.

The DUI Court program is modeled after the successful Drug Court program, which requires offenders to undergo substance abuse treatment in combination with education, judicial monitoring, formal probation and frequent alcohol / drug testing. It is designed for offenders who have received their second or third arrest for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, and who are now ready to admit their crime and address their addiction.

“The purpose of the DUI Court is to protect the public, reduce recidivism, and assist the participants in addressing and solving the problems that cause them repeatedly to make irresponsible decisions,” said Orange County Superior Court Judge Wendy Lindley, who will oversee the Santa Ana program. “DUI Court works,” she continued, “of some 200 people who have graduated from the program at the Harbor Justice Center presided over by Judge Carlton P. Biggs, only two have been rearrested for drunk driving. It is exciting to collaborate with many County agencies and Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) to improve the quality of life for Orange County residents.”

Agencies working with the Orange County Superior Court to administer the program include the Orange County Probation Department, Orange County Health Care Agency’s Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services, Office of the District Attorney, Office of the Public Defender, Orange County Sheriff’s Department, California Highway Patrol, and the police departments for the cities of Santa Ana, Orange, and Tustin.

For more information about DUI Court, contact any of the following agencies:

Orange County Superior Court, Central Justice Center (714) 834-4717
Orange County Probation, Santa Ana Office (714) 569-3749
Health Care Agency, Santa Ana Office (714) 834-3840
Public Defender, Santa Ana Office (714) 568-4860