



Superior Court of California  
County of Orange

***NEWS RELEASE***

Media and Community Relations Office  
Contact: Carole Levitzky (714) 834-7623  
clevitzky@occourts.org

May 5, 2008

The Superior Court of Orange County's DUI Court Program in Newport Beach  
Will Receive Academy Court Designation

Santa Ana, California—The National Drug Court Institute (NDCI) in partnership with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) will recognize the Superior Court of Orange County Harbor Justice Center, Newport Beach Driving under the Influence (DUI) Court as one of a special group of four nationally selected Academy Courts on **May 7, 2008 at 4:00 P.M.** CEO and Executive Director of NADCP / NDCI, C. West Huddleston III, will deliver the award and announcement at a DUI Court graduation at the Central Justice Center, Department C1, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 700 Civic Center Drive West in Santa Ana, California.

The Harbor Justice Center, Newport Beach DUI Court program is among the nation's finest programs. It is recognized as a model for other states, cities, and counties. It is one of only four courts which passed the rigor of a multi-phase peer reviewed application process to earn the honor of Academy Court.

Superior Court Judge Carl Biggs, who oversees the program, said, "We've made significant progress toward achieving our goal to reduce recidivism among drunk drivers and keep the public safe." He added, "Since the DUI program began in December of 2004, more than 450 have participated in the program and 212 have graduated."

Working with local courts is a mission for NADCP / NDCI. Since its inception, the NADCP/ NDCI has been committed to highlighting DUI court programs which exhibit exemplary practices. Continuing in this tradition, the newly identified DUI Academy Courts will serve on a regional basis as primary host sites for training and technical assistance for anyone interested in DUI courts.

DUI courts target certain impaired drivers who, without serious treatment intervention and accountability are of a high risk to re-offend. Over 300 operational DUI / drug courts exist throughout the United States. DUI courts are dedicated to changing the behavior of the alcohol / drug dependent offender arrested for driving while impaired. The goal of DUI court is to stop drunk driving by addressing the root cause: alcohol and other substance abuse. Once convicted, DUI court participants, while under a probationary sentence, are required to

OCourt Release # 010-08

undergo intensive supervision, ongoing alcohol / drug monitoring, and rigorous treatment while being required to regularly appear before a specially trained judge.

A recent study conducted by the University of Georgia and the Judicial Council of Georgia reported that DUI court graduates are four times less likely to be rearrested for DUI at twenty-four months after program completion.

Agencies who work collaboratively with the Superior Court of Orange County to administer the program include Orange County Probation, Orange County Health Care Agency's Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services, Officer of the District Attorney, Office of the Public Defender, Orange County Sheriff's Department, California Highway Patrol, the police departments for the cities of Costa Mesa, Newport Beach, Laguna Beach and Irvine, and the non-profit organization Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)

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

Orange County Superior Court	(949) 476-4634
Orange County Probation	(714) 569-2200
Health Care Agency	(714) 480-6650
Public Defender's Office	(949) 476-4888