



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

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## Harbor Justice Center DUI Court Graduates 12 Participants Amid Pandemic

**Santa Ana, CA** – The Superior Court of Orange County held a graduation ceremony for 12 successful participants of the [Driving Under the Influence \(DUI\) Court](#) voluntary program, which includes comprehensive treatment, supervision, and regular Court appearances.

Judge Matthew Anderson, Supervising Judge at Harbor Justice Center and the judge presiding over the Collaborative Court calendars, led the graduation ceremony in Harbor Justice Center, on Tuesday, July 7, 2020, to acknowledge the hard work of participants and presented them with certificates of completion of the program.

The program is a collaborative effort of the Court, the Public Defender’s Office, the District Attorney’s Office, Probation Department, Health Care Agency, and the Sheriff’s Department.

“Due to the pandemic, today's graduates were forced to manage their DUI Court responsibilities isolated and without crucial support services. All 12 graduates accomplished this while remaining sober and, as they said, growing stronger in their recovery,” Judge Anderson said, lauding the fact that this program significantly reduces recidivism.



*Delia Aragon (right) addresses the Court*

Delia Aragon, one of the program’s graduates said, “I never heard of this program before. It looked hard; schedule, rules, ... too big a mountain to climb. But it showed me the different way I can live. I need the accountability and structure. I would like to thank Judge Anderson and the whole Harbor DUI Court Team; I feel truly blessed to be part of the program.”

“Without connection, many people struggle, but these 12 graduates remained engaged with the Team and used their recovery tools constantly. I am immensely proud of them and inspired by their courage. Today's graduation is a dramatic reminder that recovery is possible for

everyone, no matter the obstacles,” the judge said, adding, “Even with closed courthouses, probation offices, and healthcare centers, the Harbor DUI Court Team has continued to maintain contact with participants: supporting them, encouraging them, and providing resources. The Team's unwavering commitment is reflected in the success of today's graduates.”

“All stakeholders have gone ‘above and beyond’ since the Court closure. Although they've had to adapt to changing circumstances, the Team has continued its work - uninterrupted - and with more intensity than ever. Those working in DUI Court are truly heroes. Their work is saving lives and keeping our community safe,” Judge Anderson said.

The mission of the Superior Court of California Driving Under the Influence (DUI) Court program is to reduce DUI recidivism, enhance community safety, and foster a healthier and safer life for the participants and their families by increasing treatment, supervision, and accountability of the high-risk drug or alcohol impaired driver. The Superior Court of California DUI Court program is a Court-supervised program for DUI offenders who have no violence, drug sales, or gang activity in their past. This voluntary program includes comprehensive treatment, supervision and regular Court appearances throughout its minimum one-year term.

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