

# Superior Court of California County of Orange



## *News Release*

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### **Community Court Achieves National Recognition**

The Orange County Community Court was named a Mentor Court by the Center for Court Innovation on behalf of the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance.

This Federal Justice Department program will provide financial and technical assistance to implement or enhance community courts, provide financial and technical assistance for an impact evaluation of an established community court and recognize and provide technical assistance to mentor community courts. The ultimate goal is to encourage the successful replication of the community court model and the application of community court principles to wider populations.

The Orange County Community Court is one of only four courts nationwide to be part of the 2018 Community Court Grant Program, as it demonstrated a clear commitment to the community court model.

"Since opening in 2008, hundreds of lives and millions of dollars have been saved by the Orange County Collaborative Courts," said Judge Mary Kreber Varipapa, who oversees many of the programs.

The Community Court currently houses ten separate problem-solving courts. These include: Veterans Treatment Court, Military Diversion, Drug Court, DUI Court, Homeless Outreach Court and five separate Mental Health Courts.

"The success of these programs revolves around community service providers which are co-located at the Community Court. These providers include the Veterans Administration, the Public Defender, OC Health Care Agency, OC Probation, Vocational Rehab, housing specialists, education specialists, as well as dozens of other private and public community resources," Judge Kreber Varipapa added.

The Orange County Community Court is a stand-alone facility open to the public. Participants are required to engage in individualized treatment and training while adhering to intensive supervision. The key to these programs is the collaboratively structured individual case-plans with direct agency support on site.

For more information about the Center for Court Innovation Mentor Court program application process please click [here](#) and about community court programs [here](#).