

Superior Court of California County of Orange

News Release

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Orange County Superior Court Celebrates Juror Appreciation Week May 9–13

Santa Ana, CA – The Orange County Superior Court will celebrate Juror Appreciation Week, May 9–13, to recognize the service and participation of jurors from our community. Recognition for jurors during the second week in May was established by a special resolution passed by the California Legislature in 1998 to acknowledge the important contributions of citizens who devote their time and effort in "making the cherished right of trial by jury a reality." Jurors in Orange County who report for service during the week of May 9–13 will receive a small memento from the court.

"Jurors guarantee that everyone has the right to a trial where they can be heard and judged by their peers," said Presiding Judge Charles Margines. "In recognition of this valuable service, the judicial branch has worked to make jury duty less burdensome with one-day or one-trial service, plain-language jury instructions, and other improvements. We deeply appreciate the sacrifices and contributions jurors make to our justice system."

To improve the jury system in Orange County, our court now uses a jury summons postcard. The jury summons postcard makes the response process more efficient, eliminating the need for prospective jurors to apply postage and respond by mail. The printing and postage savings to the court for the first year totaled more than \$137,000. Jurors are summoned using a blue, double-sided postcard and asked to respond electronically through the court's <u>eJuror application</u> instead of returning an affidavit by mail. A paper process is still available for individuals who request it.

Annually, millions of Californians statewide participate in jury service:

- About 9 million people are summoned to jury service, over 640,000 in Orange County alone;
- Over 3.5 million prospective jurors are eligible and available to serve;
- Approximately 80 percent of prospective jurors complete service in one day; and
- In Orange County, more than 1000 jury trials (criminal and civil) are held.

Even the Chief Justice of California Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye was called and <u>reported for jury service</u> on March 23 of this year.

For more information on jury service, visit <u>www.occourts.org</u> and click on "Jury Service," or visit the <u>Jury Service section</u> of the California Courts website.

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