



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

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Court Celebrates National Treatment Court Month this May

Santa Ana, CA – Orange County Superior Court is observing National Treatment Court Month this May, along with the rest of our nation.

“This month, we celebrate the transformation of our participants and impact of treatment courts on individuals, families, and communities across Orange County,” said Hon. Scott B. Cooper, Supervising Judge of Orange County’s Collaborative Courts.

National Treatment Court Month, observed annually in May, provides an opportunity to raise awareness about the critical role of treatment courts in addressing the substance use disorders and mental health issues found in so many people involved in the criminal justice system.

“Throughout the month, Orange County Collaborative Courts will highlight the programs that are making our communities safer and helping participants find hope, healing, and a second chance through our treatment court programs,” Judge Cooper noted.

Treatment courts, including Orange County’s drug courts, DUI courts, mental health courts and veterans/military courts, offer a proven alternative to the traditional criminal justice system by prioritizing rehabilitation, accountability, and support through access to comprehensive treatment, supervision, counseling, and community resources.

“These specialized courts empower individuals to break the cycle of addiction, reduce recidivism and rebuild their lives,” said Hon. Maria Hernandez, Orange County Superior Court Presiding Judge.

A graduate of our program, Blake, who is currently attending UCLA Law School previously shared, “Looking at my life up until the Collaborative Courts, my best decision-making only yielded incarceration. When I let the team guide me in my decisions, I was finally able to navigate through any difficulties which came my way.”

The Orange County Collaborative Courts currently consist of 16 programs with over 1,000 active participants. In the coming year, Orange County Collaborative Courts will be celebrating our 30th anniversary.

During this treatment court month, we are thrilled to have All Rise (formerly known as NADCP – the National Association of Drug Court Professionals) in our backyard. The annual All Rise national conference, which routinely brings together over 7,500 treatment court

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professionals from across the country, will take place in Anaheim from May 22nd to the 25th. The Orange County Collaborative Courts and our county justice partners (including the District Attorney's Office, the Public Defender's Office, the Probation Department, the Health Care Agency, and the Department of Veterans Affairs) will be sending dozens of team members to gain knowledge and training at the conference.

All Rise provides education, training, and support for treatment courts nationwide. This includes assisting with implementing evidence-based programs, ensuring treatment courts follow best practices through training and technical assistance, bridging gaps between justice and public health, examining any disparities and inequities in the justice system, including in treatment courts, and helping individuals and communities build the resources needed to achieve and sustain recovery.

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