



# Superior Court of California County of Orange

## ***NEWS RELEASE***

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### **Orange County Superior Court Receives Top Award For Domestic Violence and Training Awareness Program**

Santa Ana, CA - The highest honor the Judicial Council of California bestows on a court, the RALPH N. KLEPS Award, was presented to the Superior the Court of Orange County today for its outstanding Domestic Violence and Training Awareness Program. Chief Justice Ronald M. George presented the award to the Court at the annual Judicial Administration Conference awards luncheon, held in San Diego. The annual award, instituted in 1991, is given in recognition of innovative state court programs and is named for California's first Administrative Director for the Courts, Ralph N. Kleps.

Superior Court Judge Pamela Iles, a domestic violence court judge, and Caroline Swift, the program coordinator, accepted the award for the Court's Domestic Violence and Training Awareness Program. Judge Iles said, "Since its inception in 1999, the program has expanded to five school districts, including local private and parochial schools, and has the ability to reach more than 10,000 Orange County teaching staff to inform them how to detect and report the early warning signs of domestic violence." The program also focuses on teen dating violence, effective interventions for teachers, establishing peer support groups for kids, and providing local county resources to schools to support awareness programs.

The Domestic Violence Training and Awareness Program is a collaboration of the William Gillespie Foundation, Orange County Board of Supervisors, Capistrano, Saddleback Valley, Irvine, Newport-Mesa and Laguna Beach Unified School Districts, the Orange County District Attorney's Office, the Orange County Sheriff's Department, the Orange County Junior League, Human Options and Laura's House.

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