



Superior Court of California  
County of Orange

**NEWS RELEASE**

Media and Community Relations Office  
Contact: Carole Levitzky  
[clevitzky@superior.co.orange.ca.us](mailto:clevitzky@superior.co.orange.ca.us)  
(714) 834-7623

March 19, 2001

**DRUG COURT GRADUATION  
AT  
COURT LAGUNA NIGUEL FACILITY**

The Orange County Superior Court, Harbor Justice Center, Laguna Niguel Facility will hold its 10th Drug Court Graduation on **Thursday, March 22, from 3:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. at the Court's Jury Assembly Room at 30143 Crown Valley Parkway** to celebrate the accomplishments of the seven women and six men, ages 23 through 52, who have abstained their addiction to methamphetamine and cocaine to successfully complete the rigorous requirements of this 18 month-long court program. Orange County Board Supervisor Cynthia P. Coad will be the keynote speaker at the event.

The Orange County Drug Court program is a collaboration of the Orange County Superior Court, the District Attorney's Office, the Public Defender's Office, the Probation Department, the Health Care Agency, the Sheriff's Department and other law enforcement agencies.

The mission of the program is to provide a non-adversarial response to select non-violent offenders charged with felony drug possession. Through comprehensive treatment and supervision, the program seeks to enable participant addicts to become drug-free, productive members of the community. The four-phase program has intensive supervision by a drug court probation officer, individual and group counseling provided by the Health Care Agency's Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services, and frequent court appearances to discuss the participant's progress. Further, participants are subject to search and seizure during the program and are frequently contacted by probation and law enforcement personnel at their homes to ensure compliance with program requirements. The participants are required to submit to routine, frequent drug tests, attend self-help meetings (AA, NA, etc.), maintain employment and/or enroll in an educational or vocational training program. Participants are required to obtain their GED prior to drug court graduation if they do not

possess a high school diploma or GED. In addition, participants with young children are required to attend special parenting and educational classes.

Drug Courts have come a long way since their inception in 1989. In California, there are more than 128 jurisdictions operating drug courts serving a client base of over 8,000. Drug Courts are actively involved in breaking the cycle of drug addiction and crime in our communities and successfully graduating productive citizens. Orange County operates drug courts in the Harbor Justice Center, Laguna Niguel Facility and the Newport Beach Facility, the Central Justice Center (Santa Ana), the North Justice Center (Fullerton), and the West Justice Center (Westminster). A juvenile drug court program began in September, 1999 at the Lamoreaux Justice Center (Orange).

For more information contact, Teresa Risi, Drug Court Coordinator, at (949) 249-5044.

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**Court Release # 01-006**

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700 Civic Center Drive, West  
Santa Ana, California 92702