



Superior Court of California  
County of Orange

**NEWS RELEASE**

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**1<sup>ST</sup> YEAR OF DUI COURT FOR REPEAT OFFENDERS  
CELEBRATES THE GRADUATION OF 15 PARTICIPANTS**

The Orange County Superior Court and its collaborative justice partners will celebrate the first anniversary of the Driving Under the Influence (DUI) Court with a graduation ceremony for 15 participants who have learned to take personal responsibility for their actions and have successfully completed the program. The ceremony will be held **Friday, December 2, 2005, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Central Justice Center, Jury Assembly Room, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, 700 Civic Center Drive West, Santa Ana, California.**

Superior Court Judge Carl Biggs, who oversees the DUI Court at the Harbor Justice in Newport Beach, said; “The goal of this new program is to reduce recidivism among drunk drivers and keep the public safe.” He added, “Studies show that traditional jail sentences and fines haven’t worked to keep individuals from re-offending. DUI Court is an intensive program where zero tolerance for alcohol is enforced and participants are tested frequently, supervised and required to attend individual and group counseling. ”

According to Orange County Probation, during the first year of operation of the DUI Court, more than 3,100 drug test were administered and more than 8,600 alcohol breath tests were given to ensure that DUI Court participants complied with the zero tolerance policy.

“This DUI Court is an innovative judicial model that promotes accountability and provides the tools they need to break the patterns of alcohol and drug abuse,” said Christopher J. Murphy, Director of the State Office of Traffic Safety, which funds the program. “We applaud the great work that the Orange County Superior Court has done.”

DUI Court is modeled after the successful Drug Court program which requires offenders to undergo substance abuse treatment in combination with education, judicial monitoring, formal supervision and frequent alcohol / drug testing. The program is designed for offenders who have suffered their second or third arrest for Driving under the Influence of alcohol or drugs and are ready to admit their crime and addiction.

To be admitted to the program, defendants must enter a guilty plea to their case that has been filed at the Harbor Justice Center, live in Orange County, not have any convictions for violence or weapons violations, and have the ability to travel to Newport Beach for court and Santa Ana for treatment and probation supervision. Upon enrollment into the DUI Court Program, the mandatory jail sentence required for repeat DUI offenders is stayed. If the participant successfully completes the program, electronic confinement may be allowed rather than incarceration at a jail facility.

Agencies who are working collaboratively with the Orange County Superior Court to administer the program include Orange County Probation, Orange County Health Care Agency's Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services, Office of the District Attorney, Office of the Public Defender, Orange County Sheriff's Department, California Highway Patrol, the police departments for the cities of Costa Mesa, Newport Beach, Laguna Beach and Irvine, and the non-profit organization Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD).

For more information about DUI Court contact any of the following agencies:

Orange County Superior Court	(949) 476-4638
Orange County Probation	(714) 569-2200
Health Care Agency	(714) 480-6650
Public Defender's Office	(949) 476-4888

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