

**TAKING
THE
COURT
TO
STREETS**

A STATEWIDE ROUNDTABLE ON HOMELESS COURTS

**OCTOBER 26, 2006
ALAMEDA CONFERENCE CENTER
ALAMEDA, CA**

PRESENTED BY

**THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS,
CENTER FOR FAMILIES, CHILDREN AND THE COURTS
COLLABORATIVE JUSTICE PROGRAM**

WITH THE

**THE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION
COMMISSION ON HOMELESSNESS AND POVERTY
AND
JUDICIAL DIVISION**

AND

THE SUPERIOR COURT OF ALAMEDA COUNTY



Homeless Court

The two ABA policies contained herein were approved by the American Bar Association House of Delegates. All other views expressed herein have not been approved by the House of Delegates or the Board of Governors of the American Bar Association and, accordingly, should not be construed as representing the policy of the American Bar Association.

Copyright © 2006 American Bar Association,
321 N. Clark Street, Chicago, IL 60610.

CONTENTS

Agenda	1
Faculty	3
Introduction	11
About the American Bar Association Commission on Homelessness & Poverty	13
About the Administrative Office of the Courts	15
ABA Policies on Homeless Courts	17
Directory of California Homeless Courts	
1. Alameda County	21
2. Bakersfield	25
3. Contra Costa	29
4. Fresno	31
5. Humboldt	33
6. Los Angeles	37
7. Orange County	41
8. Sacramento	45
9. San Bernardino	47
10. San Diego – Central Division	49
11. San Diego – North County	55
12. San Joaquin	61
13. Santa Clara	65
14. Santa Maria	69
15. Sonoma County	71
16. Ventura	73
Homeless Courts Across the Nation	
1. Albuquerque, NM	81
2. Ann Arbor, MI (Washtenaw County)	85
3. Denver, CO	87
4. Houston, TX	89
5. Maricopa County, AZ	91
6. Pima County/Tucson, AZ	93
7. Salt Lake City, UT	95
8. Vancouver, WA	99

AGENDA

- 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. Registration & Continental Breakfast Union City Room**
- 9:30 – 9:40 a.m. Introduction Union City Room**
Diane Nunn, Director, Center for Families, Children & the Courts, Administrative Office of the Courts, Judicial Council of California
Hon. Gordon Baranco, Judge, Superior Court of California, County of Alameda
Steve Binder, Deputy Public Defender, County of San Diego
- 9:40 – 10:45 a.m. Plenary Session Union City Room**
Homeless Courts from Counties of Alameda, Kern and San Diego
- 10:45 – 11:00 a.m. Break**
- 11:00 – 11:50 a.m. Breakout Sessions**
Participants will be divided into groups and moderators will facilitate discussions using the following guiding questions:
Why create a Homeless Court?
What is the most rewarding aspect of your Homeless Court?
What challenges have you encountered with Homeless Court, and what mechanisms and/or resources did you employ to resolve those challenges?
What do you hope to learn at this conference?
- 12:00 – 1:30 p.m. Lunch Union City Room**
Diane Bellas, Public Defender, Alameda County
John MacKanin, Key Note Speaker
- 1:45 – 3:15 p.m. Breakout Sessions**
How to Start a Homeless Court
The Use of Alternative Sentencing at Homeless Court
The Range of Cases Heard at Homeless Court
How to Evaluate the Effectiveness of Homeless Court
- 3:15 – 4:00 p.m. Closing Union City Room**
Tina Rasnow, Coordinator, Self-Help Legal Access Center, Superior Court of California, County of Ventura

FACULTY

JUDGE STEVEN K. AUSTIN

Judge Austin graduated from UCLA in 1978 with a degree in Communication Studies. He then attended Hastings College of the Law where he received his J.D. degree in 1981.

He began his legal career with Cole & Scott in San Francisco, specializing in plaintiff personal injury cases. In 1984 he became an associate at York, Buresh, & Kaplan in Berkeley, where his practice involved insurance defense, construction defect, real estate, and insurance coverage litigation. He became a partner in the firm that eventually became Buresh, Kaplan, Jang, Feller & Austin in 1988. He continued at the firm until his appointment to the bench in 1998.

Judge Austin served as a trial judge at the Pittsburg branch of the Contra Costa County Superior Court from 1999 to 2001 and served as the branch presiding judge in 2000 and 2001. After a year in a family law department, he moved to his current position in an unlimited civil department in the beginning of 2003. He now serves as the supervising judge of the civil departments and as a member of the court's executive committee.

Judge Austin has been a member of the Access and Fairness Advisory Committee since 1999, and has served on the executive committee for several of those years. He is currently the Chair of CJER Fairness Education Committee and one of two judicial members of the California Commission on Access to Justice, where he will serve as Co-Chair for 2007. He frequently serves as faculty for judicial education programs related to fairness issues, including a series of satellite broadcasts for court staff.

JUDGE GORDON BARANCO

Judge Baranco graduated from the University of California at Davis with a B.A. degree in Political Science, receiving the Lindley Award for Athletic and Scholastic Achievement; and from King Hall (UC Davis) Law School, receiving a J.D. degree.

He has been employed as a Graduate Legal Assistant in the office of the California State Attorney General; a deputy district attorney in the San Francisco District Attorney's Office; Managing Attorney for San Francisco Neighborhood Legal Assistance Foundation; and Assistant to the City Attorney, Oakland City Attorney's Office.

He was appointed by Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr. as a judge to the Oakland-Piedmont-Emeryville Municipal Court, at the age of 32. After serving as a Presiding Judge of that court, he was appointed by Governor George Deukmejian as a judge to the Alameda County Superior Court, where he now serves.

He currently serves on the California Judicial Council Access and Fairness Committee; the Governing Committee of the California Judicial Council Center for Judicial Education and Research; Chair of the Alameda County Superior Court Community Focused Court Planning Committee; Fred Finch Youth Center Board; and as the Judge of the Alameda County Homeless/Caring Court. He has previously served on the boards of the Metropolitan-Oakland YMCA, the Urban Strategies Council, the Glide Memorial Methodist Church and the M. Robinson Baker YMCA.

In addition to serving as a panelist for numerous continuing legal education programs, he has received the following awards: Alameda County Bar Association Distinguished Judicial Service Award; Charles Houston Bar Association Judicial Excellence Award; Alameda-Contra Costa Trial Lawyers, Judge of the Year; the Alameda County Lawyers Club, Judge of the Year; the Bernard Jefferson Outstanding Jurist, from the California Association of Black lawyers; Charles Houston Bar Association Community service award; Bay Area Urban League Civic Achievement Award; Distinguished Alumnus Award from King Hall, UC Davis School of Law; the UC Davis Young Alumnus of the year; the University of California, Davis, Citation of Excellence; the Greater Oakland YMCA President's Award; and the Marcus Foster Institute, Outstanding Public Schools Alumnus Award. The Honorable Gordon S. Baranco Award is presented annually to a UC Davis Varsity Basketball Player "who has displayed exceptional leadership, unselfishness, work ethic and commitment to his team."

He was the commencement speaker for UC Davis College of Letters and Science in 1993 and for the African and African American Students of UC Davis Commencement in 1997.

KATHIE BARKOW

Kathie Barkow (Principal, Aspire Consulting LLC) provides broad-based consulting and planning services for homelessness, health, and anti-poverty interventions. Most of her work over the past six years as an independent consultant has focused on collaborative projects with multiple public and private stakeholders. Her consulting services have specifically included: project management; facilitation; training; data collection and analysis; event coordination; preparation of federal, local, and foundation grant applications and reports; community-based planning; and housing and services production. Prior to consulting, her work experience targeted homeless adults and families, runaway and at-risk youth, seriously mentally ill and dually diagnosed, health education, and respite care. Kathie facilitated Alameda County's community-wide Homeless and Caring Court planning meetings, and has served as the Coordinator since the project's inception in October 2004.

DIANE BELLAS

Diane A. Bellas is the Alameda County Public Defender. A graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, Boalt Hall School of Law, she joined the Alameda County Public Defender's Office as a law clerk in 1979. In the ensuing years, Ms. Bellas performed nearly every trial or management assignment in the department, including capital case litigation. As Public Defender, she is responsible for a combined staff of 188 in seven County locations. Ms. Bellas has personally represented Alameda County Homeless Court clients since the Court's inception in 2004. It continues to be the best job that she has ever had.

STEVE BINDER

Steve Binder is a deputy public defender with the San Diego Office of the Public Defender, where he has practiced since 1989. He founded the Homeless Court Program (HCP) in 1989 and authored the grant funded by the Dept. of Justice/Bureau of Justice Assistance. Mr. Binder has received many awards for his work. In 2004, the HCP was selected as one of fifteen finalists for the Innovations in Government Awards by the Ash

Institute/Kennedy School of Government-Harvard University. He is an Ashoka fellow working full-time to further replication of the Homeless Court Program. He currently serves ABA Commission on Homelessness and Poverty. He can be contacted at San Diego County Office of the Public Defender, 233 A St., Suite 800, San Diego, CA 92101, (619) 338-4708, fax: (619) 338-4811; steve.binder@sdcounty.ca.gov

JUDGE PETER C. DEDDEH

Judge Peter C. Deddeh was appointed to the San Diego Superior Court bench in June 1998, by Governor Pete Wilson. For most of his seven-year judicial career he served in criminal presiding or felony disposition departments. From December 2001 through January 2005 he supervised the 35 judges and 9 commissioners who handle exclusively criminal cases in the San Diego Superior Court's Central Division. In early 2002 he began presiding over San Diego's monthly Homeless Court sessions, and continues in that role to this day. Judge Deddeh now sits in a criminal trial department in the Central Division. Prior to becoming a judge, he was a Deputy District Attorney in the San Diego County DA's Office for 15 years. For 8 of those years he was assigned to the Gang Prosecution Unit, where he prosecuted violent gang cases and tried 15 gang murder jury trials. One of those murder cases prompted the father of a 20 year old victim to write a book, Azim's Bardo, about the tragedy of losing his only son. Judge Deddeh wrote the forward for the book. While a Deputy DA, he also served as the Chief of the Office's Juvenile Division and its South Bay Branch. Judge Deddeh attended the University of San Diego School of Law, graduating in 1982. In 2001 he was recognized as the Outstanding Graduate in the Public Sector by the law school's Center for Public Interest Law.

JULIE DEDE

Julie DeDe is the Director of Social Services at St. Vincent de Paul Village in San Diego. Julie started at St. Vincent's 5 years ago after running a drop in center for homeless people in Tempe, Arizona for 2 years. She earned her MSW from the University of Washington.

VIKKI DEL PELLIGRINO

Vikki Del Pelligrino is a Deputy District Attorney, County of Kern. Since their inception in 1999, Ms. Del Pellegrino has served as lead prosecutor for Homeless Court and Veteran's Stand Down. As a Kern County Deputy District Attorney for over a decade, Ms. Del Pellegrino has focused on crimes within the family including homicide, domestic violence, child sexual assault & abuse. Additionally, Ms. Del Pellegrino has served as the lead attorney in cases involving Mental Health issues such as competency and insanity as well as civil commitments of Sexually Violent Predators & Mentally Disordered Offenders.

Currently, Ms. Del Pellegrino is the designated prosecutor for the Bakersfield City Schools' Attendance Enhancement Project and is a key component in an inter-disciplinary team whose goal is truancy reduction. Community commitments include: Mental Health & Substance Abuse Board, the Mentally Ill Crime Reduction Project, PAC Mentor Program & Mock Trial.

MARSHA M. DUGGAN

Marsha M. Duggan was born and raised in Los Angeles County and live now in San Diego County. I have a BA in Anthropological Linguistics from California State University, Fullerton and a JD from Thomas Jefferson School of Law. She is an adjunct professor at Thomas Jefferson and is currently on leave from teaching this year. Ms. Duggan retired from the San Diego County Public Defender's Office and is currently working part-time for the Public Defender doing Proposition 36 Court and Homeless Court. She has attended Stand Down Court for most of its sessions in San Diego and has assisted occasionally for Homeless Court as well. She has also made some appearances to aid other jurisdictions in creating either a Homeless Court or Stand Down.

KARYN FRAWLEY

Karyn Frawley is the Court Operations Manager for Superior Court of California, County of San Diego, Central Criminal Division, Misdemeanor Operations. She has worked for the court for ten years. Misdemeanor Operations' staff processes misdemeanors, including cases for Drug Court, PC1210 and Homeless calendars.

STUART HING

Stuart Hing has been a Deputy District Attorney at the Alameda County District Attorney's Office since 1985, and prosecutor in Alameda County Homeless Court. He has worked in various trial assignments involving misdemeanors to death penalty cases. He supervised and trained attorneys in Alameda's misdemeanor and felony teams. Mr. Hing is also a member of the Development Committee at St. Vincent de Paul, one of the primary locations of the Homeless Court. He can be reached at (510) 272-6229, stuart.hing@acgov.org.

AMY HORTON-NEWELL

Amy Horton-Newell has served as the Director of the Commission on Homelessness & Poverty at the American Bar Association since 2001. Amy is also the Director of the ABA Standing Committee on the Law Library of Congress. She coordinates ABA policy development and programming related to the special legal needs of people experiencing homelessness and poverty. On behalf of the Association, Amy collaborates with national, state and local advocacy groups, associations, and government agencies to address issues related to homelessness and poverty. Amy also serves on the Board of Directors for the Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless in Maryland. Amy received a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish from the University of Maryland, College Park, where she was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. She graduated from the University of Maryland School of Law and was admitted to the Maryland Bar in 2000.

ROSA JUNQUEIRO

Rosa Junqueiro has been the Executive Officer of the San Joaquin Superior Court since December 2003. Prior to joining San Joaquin Superior Court, she was the Clerk/Administrator of the Manteca-Ripon-Escalon-Tracy Municipal Court. She holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Social Science.

Ms. Junqueiro was appointed to the Judicial Council of California's Trial Court Budget Working Group, Court Interpreter Advisory Panel, and Access & Fairness Advisory

Committee. She was also co-chair of the Regional Court Interpreter Employer Relations Committee and served on the Budget Change Request Working Group as well as other Administrative Office of the Courts working groups.

Ms. Junqueiro, along with her committee, produced a cultural awareness video "In the Interest of Justice" which focuses on the cultures of our Southeast Asian community. This project was distributed to every court in the state, as well as other courts and agencies across the nation, and was also awarded the Ralph N. Kleps award for improvement in the administration of the courts by the Judicial Council in February 2002.

JUDGE BARBARA A. KRONLUND

Judge Kronlund was appointed to the San Joaquin Superior Court bench in April 2005 and is currently assigned to juvenile delinquency. Prior to her appointment, she was San Joaquin County Superior Court Commissioner and Municipal Court Commissioner for Manteca, Ripon, Escalon, and Tracy Judicial Districts. Prior to her work in the court, she worked in San Joaquin County District Attorney's Office, supervising the Child Abuse & Sexual Assault Unit and in Sacramento County district attorney's Office.

Judge Kronlund attended the McGeorge School of Law, University of the Pacific, Sacramento, Ca. and was awarded a Juris Doctor degree, with Distinction and did her undergraduate work at Pepperdine University earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology. She was a member of the San Joaquin County Bar Association and California Court Commissioners Association. Currently, she is a member of the California Judges Association and chairs their Criminal Law & Procedure Committee. She also is a consultant for the Center for Judicial Education and Research (CJER) and serves on numerous committees and boards. She also has been a presenter at numerous bar association events.

Judge Kronlund's publications include: Fatal Child Abuse By Forced Water Intoxication; A Case of Fatal Child Abuse By Water Intoxication; Pacific Law Journal, Review of Selected Legislation in California and Nevada, dealing primarily with criminal law.

She is also a recipient of Kleps Award for "In the Interest of Justice" video, was awarded \$37,000 Judicial Council grant for Cultural Awareness Training video project; presented the Peacemaker of the Year Award by the Mediation Center of San Joaquin County; and given the Susan B. Anthony Women of Achievement Award for her work on the "Law and Legal Services."

JOHN MACKANIN

John MacKanin was born in Chicago. He served as an active duty Marine for four years, and received an Honorable discharge and recommendation for re-enlistment. He was a family man, homeowner, and held a degree in business management, graduating with a 4.0-grade average. He was on the Deans list for two years. He led a successful career in electronics and real estate industries.

Alcoholism led to life on the streets in San Diego. After successfully completing a 28-day drug and alcohol program at the V.A. and beginning the extended program at V.V.S.D., MacKanin learned about the Homeless Court Program.

MacKanin had four outstanding warrants for sleeping on the beach and possessing open containers of alcohol. In May 1999, he stood before Judge Valentine. His defense attorney was Steve Binder. He was surprised by the Court's willingness to work with him and allow him to continue his program without the burden of legal problems.

According to MacKanin, in time and with guidance from some very special people, he regained his self-respect, esteem, dignity, and found there was hope for his future. In February 2000, he left V.V.S.D. gainfully employed, sober and with an award signed by the C.E.O. and C.O.O. at V.V.S.D, another prized possession. The award states:

To John MacKanin

“For being an exemplary role model.”

Mr. MacKanin shares this award with all the people who believed in him.

To the present: Now in his sixth year of sobriety and retired since October 2003, MacKanin travels and spends time with family and friends. But according to Mr. MacKanin, the most important thing he does is provide service to others new in the program of recovery.

RICHARD McCUE

Richard McCue is a career prosecutor with the San Diego District Attorney's Office where he has spent a little over 17 years. Before joining the District Attorney's Office he was in practice for some years in civil litigation. During his career in the District Attorneys Office he has prosecuted murders to misdemeanors in juvenile and adult proceedings. He is presently assigned to the South Bay Branch as the Head of the Issuing Department. In addition to those duties he also has taken on the Homeless Court Project for the District Attorney's Office and is also deeply involved in the San Diego County Drug Court program.

DIANE NUNN

Diane Nunn is the director of the AOC Center for Families, Children & the Courts. Before she joined the AOC in 1986, she was an attorney in private practice with an emphasis on family and criminal law as well as domestic violence prevention and intervention. She also worked in a variety of positions in the Los Angeles court system, including court program administrator, juvenile court referee, temporary judge, and legal research assistant. Ms. Nunn received an Outstanding Legal Advocacy Award from the National Association of Counsel for Children, and was recognized by the California CASA programs for her efforts on behalf of the programs and the children they serve. She has been honored with a distinguished service award from the Judicial Council for her positive leadership contributions to court administration in California.

TINA RASNOW

Tina Rasnow is a senior attorney with the Ventura County Superior Court, and a coordinator of its Self-Help Legal Access Center and Homeless Court programs. She received her undergraduate degree in Women's Studies from the University of California, Berkeley and her J.D. degree from the University of California, Hastings College of the Law in 1983. Prior to working for the court Ms. Rasnow practiced real estate law in

Westlake Village. She serves on the California Judicial Council's Task Force on Self-Represented Litigants and its Access and Fairness Advisory Committee. She chaired the State Bar Standing Committee on the Delivery of Legal Services in the 2005-2006 term. She is a past president of the Ventura County Bar Association. Ms. Rasnow has authored articles in local newspapers and professional periodicals on access to justice and diversity issues, including a law review article *Traveling Justice: Providing Court Based Pro Se Assistance to Limited Access Communities*, published in the February 2002 Fordham Urban Law Journal.

JOSHUA H. RUDNICK

Joshua H. Rudnick, Esq. has nine years of experience representing domestic violence and sexual assault victims in family law, housing and immigration matters. He currently is the Director of Litigation, Advocacy & Training at the Greater Bakersfield Legal Assistance, Inc. He has litigated cases in State and Federal Court, including Fair Housing cases in U.S. Federal District Court and immigration removal cases in the U.S. Immigration Court. When he first joined GBLA, Inc. and as part of his outreach duties, he produced and performed radio shows regarding the legal rights of farm workers, tenants, immigrants, domestic violence and disaster victims (1997 floods and 1998 freeze) for the Spanish radio station *Radio Campesina*. He helped create what is now known as the Kern County Homeless Court when he was the supervising attorney in the housing unit of GBLA. In 1989, he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the University of California, Los Angeles, focusing on international relations and the Pacific Rim. He received a Master's Degree in Latin American Studies from San Diego State University in 1997, specializing in international border disputes and cooperation, and political change in Latin America. He graduated from the California Western School of Law in 1996 and was on Law Review.

ANDRE SIMPSON

Andre Simpson has been with Veterans Village of San Diego for over ten years. During this time he worked as an Employment Counselor, AOD Counselor/Case Manager and Community Reintegration Director. While serving as Community Reintegration Director, he assisted in the development of the monthly Homeless Court Program, implemented and managed a 150-bed male veteran seasonal shelter and collaborated with San Diego County Department of Child Support Services to implement and manage a Non-Custodial Parent Program to assist San Diego's homeless veterans with family reunification and child support issues. In his current position as Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, he is responsible for supervising the agency's operation to maximize and utilize all available resources, while at the same time ensuring our resident population receives the highest level of services possible. Mr. Simpson is a recipient of the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans' Unsung Hero Award, San Diego City Council Special Commendation, and City of San Diego Certificate of Appreciation. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Human Services from the University of Phoenix and can be contacted at 619-497-0142.

JUDGE H. A. "SKIP" STALEY

Judge Staley graduated from New York University with a B.S. degree. He then attended the University of San Diego where he received his law degree. For six years he practiced as a deputy public defender with the Kern County Public Defender's Office, and in 1982, he was appointed to the bench. As judge to the Kern Superior Court, he is currently

assigned as the Supervising judge of the family law department and he sits on the court's Executive Committee.

Judge Staley helped implement both the Homeless Veterans Stand Down Court in 1999 and the Homeless Court in 2002. He has presided at sessions handling over 450 defendants and over 500 cases. Judge Staley received the 2002 Bakersfield Individual Humanitarian Award sponsored by the Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce for his work with the homeless courts.

TERYL WAKEMEN

Teryl Wakeman graduated from Humboldt State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Information Systems and earned his law degree from Western State University, College of Law. He has worked with the Office of the Public Defender, County of Kern since 1999. He helped implement both the Homeless Veterans Stand Down Court and the Homeless Court and has worked with both from their inception to the present. He is currently assigned to Juvenile Court where he handles Delinquency cases. Mr. Wakeman volunteers his time to sit as a Judge on the Teen Court Juvenile Prevention Program and is currently on the Board of Directors for Greater Bakersfield Legal Aid.

WALTER WILLIAMS

Walter Williams serves as the Homeless Court Coordinator and Outreach for the Community Homeless Law Center Project (CHLCP) for Greater Bakersfield Legal Assistance, Inc (GBLA) in Kern County, California. As part of his role, Mr. Williams moves individuals and families experiencing homelessness from the streets to housing and jobs. Mr. Williams is a visionary and has a strong reputation as being an effective grassroots leader in his community. He has led many community-wide efforts that have resulted in positive change for low-income individuals and families in the most blighted areas of Kern County. Mr. Williams spearheaded the first National Homeless Court Conference that took place in Fresno, California on January 30th, 2003.

INTRODUCTION

Throughout California, Homeless Court Programs are ensuring that individuals can address outstanding legal matters and make a step forward to a better life. Today, at least 14 active Homeless Court Programs operate in California, and 7 more are in development. Slowly, we are working toward a common goal to help homeless members of our society work to improve themselves and move from the streets, through programs and to self-sufficiency.

In San Diego County, twice a month hundreds of cases are resolved, usually with smiles on the faces of the client, the attorneys, the staff, and the judge. Many times the client and the court symbolize this new beginning by shaking hands, and clients leave the courtroom with a new found sense of self-worth—a valuable tool that leads them down a road toward success. New organizational tools are being used, from the formal JURIS calendar layout to the expanded Excel format calendar, expediting the court process, to the ongoing “Shelter Tool Kit” project, which is as much a manual of how the program is structured as it is an opportunity for shelter providers to give feedback to the court on how the program is helping their clients as they work their way back into society.

These and other steps throughout California are all great, but they are only the beginning. The nature of this system is one of change, and we need to approach that change and learn from it. The Homeless Court Program must evolve and grow so we can learn how to better prepare clients, what to expect from different jurisdictions, which letters and forms best help the court, and how cases can be best resolved.

The Homeless Court principles approved by the American Bar Association House of Delegates in August of 2006 highlight the beginning of a new era for our collective work. These principles are both an aspiration and commitment we all share to striving for the best in ourselves, our courts, homeless participants and communities. Our gathering for the roundtable today is but a first step to improving the Homeless Court, the criminal justice system, and our collaborative network.

As our clients are beginning the new chapter in their lives by participating in the program, those involved in Homeless Court realize the importance of the program as well as the positive impact it has in the lives of the participants, the courts, and the community in general.

When a person experiencing homelessness requests the aid of the court, they are taking a position of supreme responsibility, dignity, and respect. To face all the troubling times and altercations before a judge, and to take responsibility for those times wishing for a new beginning is no small task.

The Homeless Court Program is vital to all those who wish to get a new place to live, a driver’s license, a job, and all commendable steps towards an independent life in society. But it all starts with a strong beginning, and the Homeless Court Program is that beginning. We are all here from different demographic situations, but we come with one goal. Throughout the day we hope to learn from one another to find the best possible modes of action for a homeless individual to tackle the seemingly daunting legal process—to face a new beginning for the Homeless Court Program and our homeless participants.

Steve Binder
Special Advisor, ABA Commission on Homelessness & Poverty

ABOUT THE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION COMMISSION ON HOMELESSNESS & POVERTY

In 1991, The Commission on Homelessness and Poverty was established by the Board of Governors of the American Bar Association (ABA). The Commission is charged with the following tasks: (1) Educating members of the bar and the public about legal and other problems of poor and homeless people and ways in which lawyers can assist in solving or ameliorating them; (2) training lawyers in areas needed to provide pro bono legal assistance to homeless people and those at risk of becoming homeless; (3) working with all ABA entities on issues arising in their jurisdiction that affect poor and homeless people; and (4) engaging in such further activities as may be necessary and proper for the fulfillment of these responsibilities, including working with state and federal executive branches and legislative bodies concerning matters relating to the poor and homeless. These tasks are carried out by one staff attorney and 13 volunteer members appointed by the ABA President.

In 1986, the ABA passed a resolution expressing the ABA's support of legislation and programs which protected the rights of homeless people, created housing and other programs to aid homeless people in their battle for self-sufficiency, and urged pro bono legal representation of homeless clients. To implement this resolution, the ABA Section of Individual Rights and Responsibilities created the Representation of the Homeless Project, which in turn provided technical assistance to bar association pro bono homeless programs, educated the profession about homelessness and the needs of homeless people, and drafted policy for the ABA House of Delegates (the ABA's legislative body). Building on the work of the Project, in 1991, the ABA created the Commission on Homelessness and Poverty to demonstrate the Association's commitment to addressing the legal needs of homeless and impoverished people.

In carrying out its mission, the Commission provides policy-based advocacy on behalf of homeless and impoverished people. The Commission, through the ABA Governmental Affairs Office, works with Congress to develop and fund programs that will address the causes of homelessness and poverty in the United States, as well as to enact laws that will protect and provide for those in desperate need of assistance. Most recently, the Commission drafted policy in support of expanding the federal definition of homelessness as well as policy establishing guiding principles for homeless courts.

The Commission is committed to educating the bar and the public about homelessness and poverty and the ways in which the legal community and advocates can assist those in need. To achieve this goal, the Commission drafts publications and conducts training sessions across the country to equip the legal community to advocate on behalf of people who are homeless or poor. The Commission's latest publication, "Lawyers Working to End Homelessness," is a compilation of essays and articles intended to inspire and guide readers to use their legal expertise to address homelessness in their communities. Written by attorneys from all areas of practice -- from law students to nationally recognized advocates for the homeless and from solo practitioners to those working at big law firms -- the guide is a valuable source of thoughts, ideas, and suggestions for virtually any attorney who is interested in using his or her talents to

benefit the most vulnerable population. Articles cover a broad spectrum of advocacy, from the most basic act of taking on a pro bono case to the more complex act of creating a bar committee or service program from scratch. The Commission also coordinates with national, state and local advocates and organizations to facilitate the exchange of information and resources.

One of the Commission's current priorities is to facilitate the creation of homeless courts throughout the country. Why the need for homeless courts? People who are homeless are routinely issued citations for such minor offenses as illegal lodging, jaywalking, and drinking in public. Caught up in the daily struggle for food, clothing, and shelter, a person who is homeless has few resources to draw upon in order to respond properly to the criminal justice system. Consequently, misdemeanor citations and infractions are often not dealt with, compounding the problem as warrants are issued and additional fines are assessed, which often preclude the homeless from accessing desperately needed services such as public benefits and mental health and/or substance abuse treatment—not to mention employment and housing.

In October 2004, the Commission hosted a national conference on homeless courts in San Diego—home of the nation's first homeless court established in 1989 at Stand Down. Since the conference—and under the leadership of its past chair and current special advisor, Steve Binder—the Commission has provided technical assistance to several jurisdictions that have established homeless courts or are in the process of establishing homeless courts. The Commission is proud to be the leader in fostering replication of this innovative program that expands access to justice, reduces court costs, and helps homeless people move towards self-sufficiency.

The Commission is presently partnering with the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans to provide technical assistance and resource materials related to the creation of homeless courts at Stand Down events for homeless veterans. For more information, visit www.nchv.org.

In addition to its work related to homeless courts, the Commission focuses on an often overlooked segment of the homeless population: homeless youth. In 2002, the Commission published *Educating Children without Housing: A Primer on Legal Requirements and Implementation Strategies for Educators, Advocates and Policymakers*, a resource that has been used at Department of Education trainings across the country. The Commission also routinely hosts educational programs on the special legal issues faced by homeless youth, including access to shelter, education, and medical care.

The Commission also administers the John J. Curtin, Jr. Justice Fund Legal Internship Program. Named for the former ABA President, the program awards stipends to law students who spend the summer months working for a bar association or legal services program designed to prevent homelessness or assist homeless or indigent clients or their advocates. The program provides much-needed legal assistance to organizations serving the underrepresented and gives students direct experience in a public interest forum. Through this, it aims to help homeless clients and to encourage careers in the law that further the goals of social justice.

As the Commission celebrated its 15th Anniversary in August 2006, its members—both past and present—reflected on the achievements the Commission has accomplished as well as the work that remains to be done. The Commission continues its advocacy on behalf of people experiencing homelessness and those living in poverty by rallying lawyers across the country to take action and supporting their efforts. We invite you to join us.

For more information about the ABA Commission on Homelessness and Poverty, visit www.abanet.org/homeless/ or contact the Commission at (202) 662-1694 or homeless@abanet.org.

ABOUT THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) is the staff agency to the Judicial Council of California, the policymaking body of the state court system. Under the leadership of Administrative Director of the Courts William C. Vickrey and Chief Deputy Director Ronald G. Overholt, the AOC is responsible for a variety of programs and services to improve access to a fair and impartial judicial system. Recent structural changes in the state judicial branch have dramatically increased the AOC's roles and responsibilities. Today the agency is organized into nine divisions in San Francisco, one division in Sacramento, and three regional offices, with a staff of more than 600 serving the courts for the benefit of all Californians.

The AOC's Center for Families, Children & the Courts works to improve the quality of justice for—as well as services to meet the diverse needs of—families, youth, children, and self-represented litigants in the California courts.

For more information about the Administrative Office of the Courts, visit www.courtinfo.ca.gov or contact the AOC at (415) 865-4200.

Major Reforms

The current stage in the council's history is marked by a focus on productivity, accountability, and innovation. Beginning in the late 1980s, the council has under-gone a series of fundamental reorganizations aimed at incorporating more input not only from within the judicial branch but from other interested entities and individuals. This broad participation assists the council in effectively meeting postmodern needs. Council-initiated reforms have affected every area of court operations, from jury service and court interpreters to court technology and assistance for self-represented litigants and troubled families. At the same time, the council has promoted unity and cooperation both within the judicial branch and between it and its sister branches.

Three laudable and long-sought reforms have allowed the judicial branch to successfully address ongoing court management challenges in this new millennium.

Trial Court Funding Act of 1997: Effective January 1, 1998, the Trial Court Funding Act of 1997 provided courts with their first stable, secure, and highly accountable statewide funding system. No other reform in California court history has done more to free courts from day-to-day financial uncertainty or has been more important in allowing the courts to focus their resources and attention on improving access and service to the public.

Trial Court Unification: The unification of the municipal and superior courts, which began in 1998 and is now effective in all 58 counties, gave California a one-tier trial court system that has produced efficiencies far exceeding early expectations.

Trial Court Facilities Act of 2002: The transfer of ownership and management of all trial court facilities from individual counties to the state is designed to improve the condition of California's court facilities. These transfers will enable the Judicial Council

to ensure that justice is administered effectively and accessibly throughout the state. The first of 450 expected property transfers took place in Riverside County in 2004 when responsibility for the Larson Justice Center was transferred to the State of California. The first transfer of title to a court facility took effect on January 3, 2006, when ownership of the Lodi Department 2 facility in San Joaquin County transferred to the State of California.

Other Highlights

Increasing Access and Fairness in State Courts: The council has developed numerous education and outreach programs to improve access and fairness for all persons using the court system, including those with disabilities. In 2001, the council launched the California Courts Online Self-Help Center to improve court access for litigants without attorneys.

Helping Children and Families: Many far-reaching efforts are under way to expedite court processes, services, and support for the growing number of families in crisis.

Reaching Out to Communities: Because of the council's efforts, all 58 counties have developed individual community-focused strategic plans for local budgeting, resource allocation, and project prioritization consistent with Judicial Council Strategic Plan goals.

California Homeless Courts: Homeless courts are special court sessions, often held in a local shelter or other community site designed for homeless citizens. They help resolve outstanding misdemeanor criminal cases and warrants. Homeless people tend to be fearful of attending court, yet their outstanding warrants limit their reintegration into society, deterring them from using social services and impeding their access to employment. They are effectively blocked from obtaining driver's licenses, job applications, and rental agreements. Resolution of outstanding warrants not only meets a fundamental need of homeless people but also eases court case-processing backlogs. Currently there are 16 homeless courts in California counties: Alameda, Contra Costa, Fresno, Humboldt, Kern, Los Angeles, Orange, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Joaquin, Santa Clara, Santa Maria, Sonoma, Ventura, and Vista. Many of these courts provide specialized services for homeless veterans and have been recognized for their unique contribution. These courts combine plea bargaining with alternative sentencing that substitutes counseling, volunteer work, and participation in agency programs for the traditional fines, public work service, and custody. Defendants are given credit for having entered a shelter, done volunteer work, or enrolled in Alcoholics Anonymous or other self-help and education programs.

Courts' Impact on Communities: Homelessness affects the entire community. In Los Angeles alone, the homeless population has been estimated to be as high as 90,000 individuals. Homeless individuals within Alameda County number approximately 6,215, 28 percent of whom are children in homeless families. Estimates are that 69 percent of that county's homeless population lives in the major cities of Berkeley and Oakland. Statewide, veterans are thought to comprise 40 percent of the homeless. California's homeless courts reflect a partnership between the courts, justice system partners (such as the American Bar Association's Commission on Homelessness and Poverty), service providers, community groups, and the homeless to address a common concern.

ABA POLICIES ON HOMELESS COURTS

AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

ADOPTED BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES
AUGUST 2006

RECOMMENDATION

RESOLVED, That the American Bar Association adopts the following principles for Homeless Court Programs to the extent appropriate for each jurisdiction:

- (1) Prosecutors, defense counsel, and the court should agree on which offenses may be resolved in the Homeless Court Program, and approve the criteria for individual participation, recognizing that defendant participation in Homeless Court Programs shall be voluntary.
- (2) Community-based service providers should establish criteria for individual participation in the Homeless Court Program and screen individuals pursuant to these criteria.
- (3) The Homeless Court Program shall not require defendants to waive any protections afforded by due process of law.
- (4) All Homeless Court Program participants shall have time for meaningful review of the cases and issues prior to disposition.
- (5) The Homeless Court Program process and any disposition therein should recognize homeless participants' voluntary efforts to improve their lives and move from the streets toward self-sufficiency, including participation in community-based treatment or services.
- (6) Participation in community-based treatment or services shall replace traditional sanctions such as fines, public work service and custody.
- (7) Defendants who have completed appropriate treatment or services prior to appearing before the Homeless Court shall have minor charges dismissed, and, where appropriate, may have more serious misdemeanor charges before the court reduced or dismissed. Where charges are dismissed, public access to the record should be limited.

AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

**ADOPTED BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES
FEBRUARY 2003**

RECOMMENDATION

RESOLVED, That the American Bar Association supports the development of a comprehensive, systemic approach to addressing the needs of homeless misdemeanor defendants through multidisciplinary strategies that include coordination among the criminal justice, health, social service and education systems, and the community.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the American Bar Association urges state, local, and territorial courts to adopt Homeless Court Programs as treatment-oriented diversionary proceedings that may result in the dismissal of misdemeanor offenses upon completion of shelter/service agency activities, as a means to foster the movement of people experiencing homelessness from the streets through a shelter program to self-sufficiency.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the American Bar Association urges state, local and territorial bar associations to facilitate the development of Homeless Court Programs.

DIRECTORY OF CALIFORNIA HOMELESS COURTS

ALAMEDA COUNTYWIDE HOMELESS AND CARING COURT

Superior Court of California, County of Alameda, Homeless Court Program

Established October 2004

Primary Contact:

James Brighton, Bureau Chief
Superior Court of California, County of Alameda
Planning, Research, Court Services and Public Information Bureau
Rene C. Davidson Courthouse
1225 Fallon St, Room 104-M
Oakland, CA 94612
(510) 272-5093
jbrighton@alameda.courts.ca.gov

Alternate Contact:

Kathie Barkow, Homeless Court Coordinator
Aspire Consulting LLC
32944 Regents Blvd.
Union City, CA 94587
(510) 967-5161
kathiebarkow@earthlink.net

Judge:

Honorable Gordon S. Baranco, Judge
Superior Court of California, County of Alameda
1221 Oak Street, Dept 15
Oakland, CA 94612
(510) 272-6124
gbaranco@alameda.courts.ca.gov

Office of the District Attorney:

Stuart Hing, Deputy District Attorney
Hayward Hall of Justice
24405 Amador Street
Hayward, CA 94555
(510) 670-5119
stuart.hing@acgov.org

Office of the Public Defender:

Diane A. Bellas, Public Defender
1401 Lakeside Drive, Suite 400
Oakland, CA 94612
(510) 272-6622
diane.bellas@acgov.org

Court Administrator:

Donna Whitehouse
Traffic Division Chief
Wiley W. Manuel Courthouse
661 Washington Street
Oakland, CA 94607
(510) 268-7607
dwhiteho@alameda.courts.ca.gov

Referral Agencies:

Berkeley Emergency Food and Housing Project
Ms. Annie Perry, MSC Coordinator
2362 Bancroft Way
Berkeley, CA 94704
(510) 649-4976

Building Futures with Women and Children
Ms. Amanda Garbe
1395 Bancroft Ave.
San Leandro, CA 94577
(510) 898-7821

East Oakland Community Project
Ms. Ardelia Hoyle
5725 International Blvd.
Oakland, CA 94621
(510) 532-3211

FESCO
Ms. Doris Freeman
22242 Main Street, #104
Hayward, CA 94542
(510) 886-5473

First Place Fund for Youth
Ms. Sarah Perez
1755 Broadway
Oakland, CA 94612
(510) 272-0979

Homeless Action Center
Mr. David Wagonner
2500 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, #1
Berkeley, CA 94704
(510) 540-0878

Operation Dignity
Ms. Barbara Edmundson
1504 Franklin Street

Oakland, CA 94612
(510) 287-8465

Options Recovery Services
Dr. Davida Coady
1931 Center St.
Berkeley, CA 94704
(510) 666-9552

St. Vincent DePaul Champion Guidance Center
Mr. Steve Krank
2280 San Pablo Avenue
Oakland, CA 94612
(510) 444-0263

St. Mary's Senior Center
Ms. Kathy McCarthy, Ms. Pier Schwartz
635 22nd Street
Oakland, CA 94612
(510) 893-4723

Tri-City Homeless Coalition
Ms. Allison Bouley
588 Brown Rd.
Fremont, CA 94539
(510) 252-0910

Women's Daytime Drop-in Center
Ms. Erica Hultquist-Lamon
2218 Acton St.
Berkeley, CA 94702
(510) 548-2884

Website:
www.alameda.courts.ca.gov

Locations of Homeless Court Sessions:

St. Vincent DePaul
Champion Guidance Center
2280 San Pablo Avenue
Oakland, CA 94612

Berkeley Food and Housing Project
Multi Service Center
2362 Bancroft Way
Berkeley, CA 94704

First United Methodist Church
1183 B Street
Hayward, CA 94541

Calendar:

Homeless Court is convened the third Friday of even numbered months (February, April, June, August, October, December). The session begins at 1 pm in community locations rotating through Alameda County. Application packets are due approximately three weeks in advance of the Court date.

Types of Cases Handled:

Infractions, low level misdemeanors, and associated fines, especially those associated with the condition of homelessness are eligible for adjudication. Other low level misdemeanors are handled on a case-by-case basis with the consent of the district attorney's office, public defender, and the court. Violent offenses, drug offenses, domestic violence matters, felonies, and parking violations are not eligible for homeless court.

Dispositions:

With consent from the district attorney's office, the public defender and the court, cases are dismissed. Defendants must demonstrate progress in at least two life areas such as income, housing, employment, mental health, physical health, substance abuse, and education. Documentation is typically from the referral agency and corroborated by independent sources such rental agreements or receipts, check stubs, letters from employers, SSI award letters, treatment compliance letters, drug testing results, 12-step meeting participation, college enrollment letters, tuition receipts, report cards, and community service. Significant and sustained progress indicative of continued stabilization is credited against outstanding charges and fines. At the recommendation of the defendant's case manager or advocate, the court also often dismisses outstanding charges against defendants with applications pending for disability benefits.

Annual Volume of Homeless Court Cases/Average Size of Calendar:

250 to 300 cases on average. Calendar size is generally between 40 and 55 cases per session.

BAKERSFIELD HOMELESS COURT

Established 2001

Primary Contact:

Greater Bakersfield Legal Assistance
615 California Ave.
Bakersfield, CA 93304

Walter Williams
Homeless Court Coordinator of Kern County
(661) 321-3993 office
(661) 912-3790 (Community Homeless Law Center Project)

Judges:

Honorable Skip Staley
1215 Truxtun Ave
Bakersfield, CA 93301
(661) 868-5581

Honorable Robert S. Tafoya
1215 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Prosecutor:

Vicki Delpellegrino
Deputy District Attorney
1215 Truxtun Ave, 4TH Floor
Bakersfield, CA 93301
(661) 868-2340

Public Defender:

Teryl Wakeman
Deputy Public Defender
1315 Truxtun Ave
Bakersfield, CA, 93301
(661) 868-4212
(661) 868- 4799

Referral Agencies and Service Providers:

Greater Bakersfield Legal Assistance, 615 California Ave, Bakersfield, CA 93304, (661) 321-3993.

Salvation Army, 200 19th Street Bakersfield, CA 93301, (661) 325-8626 Ext.122.

Bakersfield Homeless Center, 1600 E. Truxtun Ave., Bakersfield, CA 93305, (661) 322-9199.

Bakersfield Rescue Mission, 821 E 21ST Bakersfield, CA 93305, (661) 325-0863.

Ebony Counselor Center, 1300 California Ave Bakersfield, CA 93304, (661) 324-4756.

Alliance Against Family Violence & Sexual Assault, 1921 19TH Bakersfield, CA 93301, (661) 322-0931.

Department of Human Services, 101 California Ave Bakersfield, CA 93304, (661) 631-6000.

Independent Living Center, 1631 30TH Street Bakersfield, CA, 93301, (661) 325-1063.

Community Action Partnership, 300 19TH Street Bakersfield, CA 93301, (661) 336-5236.

West Side Community Center, 915 N. 10TH Street, Suite 34, Taft, CA, (661) 765-7281.

California Veterans Assistance Foundation, 712 Decatur St., Apt#1, Bakersfield, CA 93308,
(661) 399-2490

Restoration Village, HUD Transitional Housing Program, 1700 Golden State Avenue, Bakersfield, CA 93301 (661) 325-7461.

One Step Inc., 6100 Cancun Ct., Bakersfield, CA 93313, (661) 303-3801.

Freedom House, 520 Niles Street, Bakersfield, CA 93305, (661) 304-8947.

Genesis Group, 1909 16TH Bakersfield, CA 93301, (661) 325-3003.

Mental Health System of Care, 3300 Truxtun Ave., Suite 290, Bakersfield, CA 93301, (661) 868-6600.

Kern Family Living Center, 610 4TH Street, Bakersfield, CA 93304, (661) 631-8415.

Website:

www.gbla.org

Locations of Homeless Court Sessions:

Salvation Army
200 19th Street
Bakersfield, CA 93301
661.325.8626 Ext.122

Bakersfield Homeless Center
1600 E. Truxtun Ave.
Bakersfield, CA 93305
661.322.9199

Bakersfield Rescue Mission
821 E 21ST
Bakersfield, CA 93305
661.325.0863

Calendar:

Homeless Court sessions are held bi-monthly (6 times a year). Social service agencies refer clients to Greater Bakersfield Legal Assistance, Inc. Those referrals are passed on to the Public Defender and to the court. The court searches all Kern County infractions and misdemeanors for (1) open cases, (2) cases with unpaid fines and (3) cases with warrants. Felonies do not qualify. The cases are put on court's calendar. The judge recalls and holds warrants until the day of the court hearing.

The calendar of cases is made available to the Public Defender who then meets with the clients. Following that, the judge, prosecutor and defense attorney meet and review each case on calendar. Non-qualifying cases are dropped. Indicated rulings are developed and written onto a copy of a court calendar. Some cases may require additional input from the defense or the prosecution. A copy of the court calendar with the indicated rulings is used by the judge, prosecution, the defense and the court room clerk. The actual court hearings are brief. Recognition is made for the progress in recovery and the orders are pronounced. The benefits received by those appearing in homeless court are earned with their past efforts at recovery and are not contingent upon future conduct.

Types of Cases Handled:

Infractions and misdemeanors can be handled. However, misdemeanor crimes involving unresolved issues of violence or potential violence are not handled. For example, spousal abuse cases and DUI's cannot be resolved on the issue of the commission of the crime or the punishment. Unpaid fines on these same offenses can be handled in homeless court. The court will also consider issuing a letter of participation in the Homeless Court program to person with out of county cases.

Dispositions:

In virtually all cases fines are suspended and unresolved crimes are dismissed. This is done after the individual meets the minimum qualifications for homeless court and receives a referral from the caseworker.

Annual Volume of Homeless Court Cases/Average Size of Calendar:

The upper limit is thirty persons and that can bring up to fifty cases. Typically the calendar has about twenty person and thirty-five cases.

CONTRA COSTA HOMELESS COURT

Established 2006

Judge:

Honorable Steve Austin
Judge, Superior Court, Contra Costa County
Dept. 33
725 Court Street
Martinez, CA 94533
(925) 646-4033
saust@sc.co.contra-costa.ca.us

Court Administrator:

Sue Haro
Court Manager
628 Escobar Street
Martinez, CA 94553
(925) 335-4310
sharo@contracosta.courts.ca.gov

Julie Winn
Homeless Court Clerk
Superior Court, Contra Costa County
Dept. 33
725 Court Street
Martinez, CA 94553
(925) 646-4033
jwinn@contracosta.courts.ca.gov

Referral Agencies:

Contra Costa County Homeless Hotline
925.646.1212 or 800.808.6444

Lavonna Martin, MPH, MPA
Assistant Director
Contra Costa Health Services
Public Health Homeless Program
597 Center Ave., Suite 325
Martinez, CA 94553
(925) 313-6140
lmartin@hsd.cccounty.us

Website:

None.

Locations:

West Contra Costa Emergency Housing Program
847C Brookside Drive (cross street Rumrill)
Richmond
(510) 374-7950

Central County Shelter
2047-C Arnold Industrial Way, Concord, CA
(925) 646-5082

Antioch Shelter
400 O Street, Antioch CA

Calendar:

The Court sessions are held once a month on the second Thursday. We alternate between the three shelters, which are located in different parts of our county. At this time we have limited the number of participants to 20 people per session. The deadline for calendaring cases is at noon the fourth court day prior to the scheduled Homeless Court. Since Homeless Court will generally convene on Thursday, this would translate to a calendaring deadline of noon the prior Friday. Referral agencies are requested to transmit proof of the defendant's completion of community service hours or his or her attendance at required substance abuse programs to the court with the calendaring request.

Types of Cases Handled:

Only infractions are eligible for Homeless Court disposition at this time. We are hopeful that certain misdemeanors will be included in the near future.

Dispositions:

Through Homeless Court, participants are "sentenced" to activities designed to assist with reintegration into society. Generally, the participant is given "credit for time served" as a result of a variety of shelter activities coordinated by the recommending caseworker. These include life-skills training, chemical dependency or AA/NA meetings, computer and literacy classes, training or searching for employment, medical care (physical and mental), counseling and volunteer work. Typically, the Homeless Court participant has already been in a case managed shelter program for at least 60 days before the court session. This means that in most cases the participant has already completed enough program activities to allow for a "credit for time served" disposition at the Homeless Court session. Program staff ensures the homeless participants are already successful in their efforts to leave the streets before they enter the courtroom. Unlike a traditional court setting, these individuals are on the right track before they meet the judge at the Homeless Court.

Annual Volume of Homeless Court Cases/Average Size of Calendar:

20 individuals per month with an average of 3 pending matters for each.

FRESNO COUNTY'S HOMELESS COURT PROGRAM

Stand Down Court Established 1994
Homeless Court Established 2002

Primary Contacts:

Sandra Silva
Associate Executive Officer
Superior Court of California, County of Fresno
1100 Van Ness Avenue
Fresno, CA 93724
559.488.6792
ssilva@fresno.courts.ca.gov

Michael Purtell
Deputy Director
Poverello House
P.O. Box 12225
Fresno, CA 93777
559.498.6988
purtell@poverellohouse.org

Judge:

Honorable Hilary Chittick
1100 Van Ness Avenue
Fresno, CA 93724
(559) 488-3625

Office of the District Attorney:

District Attorney
2220 Tulare Street, Suite 1000
Fresno, CA 93721
(559) 488-3141

Office of the Public Defender:

Public Defender
2220 Tulare Street, Suite 300
Fresno, CA 93721
(559) 488-3546

Court Administrator:

Sheran Morton, Director of Court Operations
1100 Van Ness Avenue
Fresno, CA 93724
(559) 488-6772

Referral Agencies:

Participants are referred to Homeless Court by agencies such as the Poverello House, Fresno Rescue Mission, West Care, Spirit of Women, Salvation Army and Paths and Maroa Home.

Poverello House
P. O. Box 12225
Fresno, CA 93721
(559) 498-6988

Website:

None.

Locations of Homeless Court Sessions:

Poverello House.

Calendar:

Homeless Court sessions are held on a quarterly basis.

Types of Cases Handled:

In order to participate, clients have typically completed or are in alcohol and drug treatment programs and/or job training with non-profit agencies. They have to be clean and sober for at least 30 days. Common cases involve traffic matters, public intoxication, petty theft, trespass, drinking in public, urinating in public and panhandling.

Dispositions:

Most sentences are served as community service for agencies that also help the homeless and less fortunate.

Annual Volume of Homeless Court Cases/Average Size of Calendar:

Since the first Homeless Court session on June 7, 2002, over 600 cases have been resolved for more than 280 defendants; many defendants have multiple cases that are heard in the same session.

HUMBOLDT COUNTY HOMELESS COURT

Established 2006

Judge:

Hon. John T. Feeney
Humboldt County Superior Court
825 Fifth Street
Eureka, CA 95501
(707) 269-1268
JFEENEY@humboldtcourt.ca.gov

Office of the District Attorney:

Paul Gallegos, District Attorney
County of Humboldt
825 Fifth Street
Eureka, CA 95501
(707) 445-7411
PGallegos@co.humboldt.ca.us

Office of the Public Defender:

Christina Allbright, Deputy Public Defender
County of Humboldt
1001 Fourth Street
Eureka, CA. 95501
(707) 445-7634
CAAllbright@co.humboldt.ca.us

Court Administrator:

Linda Carter
Humboldt County Superior Court
825 Fifth Street
Eureka, CA. 95501
(707) 269-1240
LCARTER@humboldtcourt.ca.gov

Referral Agencies:

The Multiple Assistance Center (MAC Center)
Simone Taylor
Eureka, CA
(707) 269-9590
simone@rcaa.org

North Coast Veterans Resource Center
Ben Fewell
2107 Third Street
Eureka, CA. 95501
(707) 442-5852
bfewell@vietvets.org

St. Vincent de Paul
Dennis Gagnon
35 West Third Street
Eureka, CA. 95501
(707) 443-8676

Mobile Medical can also be reached through St. Vincent's or Les Rastorfer at (707) 498-1656.

The Endeavor
Bonnie Owen
501 Ninth Street
Arcata, CA 95521
(707) 822-5008

Arcata Night Shelter can also be reached through The Endeavor. Contact Gerry Schmidt.

Street Outreach Services
Humboldt County Mental Health Department
Pamlyn Millsap
720 Wood Street
Eureka, CA 95501
(707) 441-5252
pmillsap@co.humboldt.ca.us

Website:
None.

Locations:

Homeless Court sessions alternate between the St. Vincent de Paul dining facility in Eureka and The Endeavor in Arcata.

Calendar:

Homeless Court sessions are held monthly on a Friday afternoon at 3 p.m. at locations that are more accessible and less intimidating for participants than the Courthouse.

Types of Cases Handled:

Infractions and non-violent misdemeanor charges are addressed in this program.

Dispositions:

The Humboldt County Homeless Court Program allows participants who are motivated and actively working to end their homelessness to pursue dismissal of charges without jail time or fines. As an opportunity to help continue their progress out of homelessness and out of the legal system, the Homeless Court allows eligible participants to substitute their legal charges, fines, and jail time with self-help activities including NA/AA meetings, drug/alcohol and mental health treatment, life skills classes, job training and volunteer/community service activities.

Annual Volume of Homeless Court Cases/Average Size of Calendar:

N/A

THE LOS ANGELES HOMELESS COURT

Established 2000

Primary Contact:

Louis Rafti
Public Counsel/Homeless Prevention Law Project
610 S. Ardmore Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90005
(213) 385-2977 x149
lrafti@publiccounsel.org

Judge:

Hon. Michael Tynan

Office of the City Attorney:

Maria Elena Reyes Branch
Office of the City Attorney
312 S. Hill Street, 2nd Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90013
General Information (213) 485-5460

Office of the Public Defender:

Nancy Richards-Chand

Referral Agencies and Service Providers:

Margaret Willis
PATH (People Assisting The Homeless)
340 N. Madison Ave
Los Angeles, CA 90004
(323) 644-2213
www.epath.org

Earnest Harris
Salvation Army Bell Shelter
5600 Rickenbacker
Bell, CA 90201
(323) 263-1206
www.salvationarmy-socal.org

Union Rescue Mission
545 S. San Pedro Street
Los Angeles, CA 90013

(213) 347-6300

www.urm.com

The Midnight Mission
601 South San Pedro Street
Los Angeles, CA 90013
www.midnightmission.org

Website:

www.publiccounsel.org

Locations of Homeless Court Sessions:

The court moves to different shelters and transitional living programs throughout the county.

Calendar:

Monthly sessions, but expected to increase with additional administrative support that L.A. County recently agreed to fund.

Types of Cases Handled:

Requirements for Participation in Homeless Court:

1. Only offenses committed within Los Angeles County
2. Homeless, or at risk of Homelessness
 - a. This is very broadly interpreted.
3. Completed 90 days of continuous satisfactory participation in a homelessness, mental health, drug and alcohol rehabilitation or General Relief Opportunities for Work (GROW) or CALWORKS GAIN Program.
4. No citations or arrests in the last six months
5. No open felony warrants.
6. Not in violation of probation or parole.

Homeless Court is available to an individual only once in a lifetime.

Offenses eligible for dismissal through Homeless Court:

1. Traffic tickets.
 - a. Including driving w/out a license, driving on a suspended license, and driving without proof of insurance.
 - b. NO DUIs
2. "Quality of Life Offenses"
 - a. Such as: Metro Fare Evasion; Jay walking; Open container; Littering.
 - i. Generally nothing involving
 1. A Weapon.
 2. A Victim
 3. A drug
 - a. Open container OK
 - b. Paraphernalia OK

- c. Less than 1 oz. of marijuana OK
3. Some low Grade Misdemeanors.
 - a. On a case-by-case basis.

Unfortunately, Homeless Court cannot resolve parking tickets.

Homeless Court Application Process:

1. Case Manager Referred Cases Only –NO SELF REFERRALS
2. Case worker/manager completes Homeless Court Application on behalf of client
3. Have Client sign and date application.
4. Case worker/manager composes a “letter of support” to accompany the application.
 - a. Letter of Support should be on letterhead and contain
 - i. Participants name
 - ii. Participants’ date of entry into the Program.
 - iii. Some general information about the Program and the particular Participant’s participation therein.
 - iv. Case worker/manager’s signature.
5. FAX letter to the Office of the City Attorney “Homeless Court.”

Dispositions:

Homeless Court considers participation in a rehabilitative program as restitution for fines and warrants. At each session, eligible cases that have been recommended for Homeless Court and reviewed by the judge are presented, the defendant has an opportunity to speak, and, in virtually all cases handled by the court, cases and their warrants are dismissed outright.

Annual Volume of Homeless Court Cases/Average Size of Calendar:

Approximately 50 to 60 participants and more than 100 matters per calendar.

ORANGE COUNTY HOMELESS OUTREACH COURT PROGRAM

Established 2003

Primary Contact:

Jim Mahar
Collaborative Court Coordinator
Orange County Superior Court
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701
(714) 834-4464
jmahar@occourts.org

Judge:

Honorable Wendy S. Lindley
Judge, Superior Court of California, County of Orange
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701
(714) 834-4679
wlinldley@occourts.org

Prosecutor:

Laura Rossini
Deputy City Attorney
Santa Ana City Attorney's Office
20 Civic Center Plaza, M29
P.O. Box 1988
Santa Ana, CA 92702
(714) 647-5201
lorssini@ci.santa-ana.ca.us

Public Defender:

Jean Wilkinson
Senior Assistant Public Defender
14 Civic Center Plaza
Santa Ana, CA 92701
(714) 834-2144
jean.wilkinson@pubdef.ocgov.com

Court Administrators:

Jim Mahar
Collaborative Court Coordinator
Orange County Superior Court
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701
(714) 834-4464
jmahar@occourts.org

Tina Payne
Collaborative Courts Manager
Orange County Superior Court
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701
(714) 834-47149
tpayne@occourts.org

Referral Agencies and Service Providers:

Orange County Rescue Mission
Jeff Hollett
1901 West Walnut Street
Santa Ana, CA 92703
(714) 258-4450

Mental Health Association of Orange County
Gina Rodriguez, Housing Specialist
2416 South Main Street
Santa Ana, CA 92701
(714) 668-1530

Veteran's Administration
Long Beach Health Care System
Craig Lea
Forensic Outreach
5901 East Seventh Street
Long Beach, CA 90822
(562) 826-8000 – ext. 4323

County of Orange Housing and Community Services
Mary Bishop
Homeless Prevention & Related Programs Manager
1300 S. Grand Ave., Bldg. B
Santa Ana, CA 92705
(714) 480-2897

Public Law Center
Alexis Penn-Loya
601 Civic Center Drive, West
Santa Ana, CA 92701
(714) 541-1010

SSI Outreach
Kati Mester
SSI Program Manger
P.O. Box 369
Orange, CA 92856
(714) 568-0082

Santa Ana Police Department
Officer Randy Beckx
60 Civic Center Plaza M-97
Santa Ana, CA 92702
(714) 565-4032

Orange County Health Care Agency
Mark Davis
Service Chief – AB2034
21035 E. Ball Road, Suite 200
Anaheim, CA 92805
(714) 517-6300

Locations of Homeless Court Sessions:

Orange County Rescue Mission
1901 West Walnut Street
Santa Ana, CA 92703

Mental Health Association of Orange County
2416 South Main Street
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Calendar:

The Homeless Outreach Court is a special Superior Court Calendar held twice per month at the Orange County Rescue Mission, and once per month at the Mental Health Association of Orange County. Prior to each session staff from the Public Defender's Office meet with potential participants to determine eligibility for participation, discuss steps necessary to obtain resolution of case(s), and to provide referrals for essential services. The Orange County Homeless Outreach Court program is unique in that participants will often attend several court sessions reporting on their progress. At the Homeless Court session the partnering agencies provide staff to assist with referrals and placements for services. This outreach model provides an opportunity to address outstanding legal issues for those who have not been fortunate enough to secure a bed at a shelter program.

Types of Cases Handled:

The Orange County Homeless Outreach Court program addresses a wide variety of infraction and non-violent misdemeanor offenses. The charges range from substance abuse related offenses to minor traffic infractions, however the majority of charges are quality of life related offenses. The Homeless Outreach Court Program does not address violent misdemeanors, or any felony cases.

Dispositions:

The Homeless Outreach Court offers a different plea structure from the traditional court proceeding. The plea agreement responds to the cases and offenses that homeless participants receive due to their condition of living on the streets. Additionally, the Outreach Court acknowledges the efforts the participants make before their appearance in court. The plea agreement recognizes that participants have often times completed the court order before the court imposes a sentence, participants complete program activities without the threat of custody or a larger fine. Standing agreements between the collaborative partners allow the Public Defender to recommend the required orders of the court so the participant has the opportunity to complete all requirements before attending court. Orange County's program is unique because it recognizes that only a small percentage of homeless are able to participate in shelter programs. The Orange County program allows participants to make multiple appearances before the court and uses these court appearances as a vehicle to link participants with partner agency representative that can provide services and linkages to services at the same time and location of the court session. Once participants have made sufficient progress towards obtaining self sufficiency cases are dismissed and/or fines and fees on outstanding cases are vacated. Statistics taken from the Orange County Superior Court Collaborative Courts 2005 Annual report shows that only 18% of the 128 program graduates have re-offended.

Annual Volume of Homeless Court Cases/Average Size of Calendar:

In 2005 the Orange County Homeless Outreach Court held 25 sessions, with an average number of 28 participants per court session. In 2005 155 participants were assisted by the Homeless Outreach Court, and 81 had their cases resolved.

SACRAMENTO

Established 1999

Primary Contact:

Judith Odbert
Supervising Assistant Public Defender
700 H Street, Suite 0270
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 874-6411
odbertj@saccounty.net

Referral Agencies:

Loaves & Fishes
1321 North C. Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 446-0874

Website:

None.

Locations of Homeless Court Sessions:

Sacramento's Homeless Court operates once a month in Department 3. This is considered the Homeless Court by official court personnel but not any of the participants. A homeless clinic is held once a month at Loaves & Fishes, a local non-profit. Attorneys from the Public Defender's office interview and meet with clients at this clinic.

Calendar:

Monthly.

Types of Cases Handled:

Misdemeanors.

Dispositions:

The Public Defender Misdemeanor Supervisor and the District Attorney Misdemeanor Supervisor work out the offers/sentencing. The offers are nontraditional and take into account the special needs of each individual. They are geared towards allowing the client dignity to choose how to handle their obligation to the court and community. They are designed to be capable of being accomplished successfully.

Annual Volume of Homeless Court Cases/Average Size of Calendar:

The court handles between 90 and 130 cases per month.

SAN BERNARDINO HOMELESS COURT

Primary Contacts:

Bob Sudol
(909) 388-4133

Michael Camber, Supervising Deputy Public Defender
364 N. Mt. View Ave.
San Bernardino, CA 92415
(909) 387-4972
MCamber@pd.sbcounty.gov

Location:

TEAM House
237 W. Mill Street
San Bernardino, CA

Calendar:

Homeless Court meets every other month.

Types of Cases Handled:

The only cases handled are misdemeanors.

Dispositions:

Misdemeanors are usually resolved by giving participants credit for treatment hours in lieu of fines or jail time.

Annual Volume of Homeless Court Cases/Average Size of Calendar:

The average number of persons at the sessions is between 10 and 20.

SAN DIEGO HOMELESS COURT PROGRAM *Central Division*

Established 1989

Primary Contact:

Steve Binder
Deputy Public Defender
233 A ST., Ste 400
San Diego, CA 92101
(619) 338-4708
Steve.binder@sdcounty.ca.gov

Judge:

Hon. Peter C. Deddeh
Judge, Superior Court of California, County of San Diego
Central Criminal Division
220 W. Broadway
San Diego, CA 92101
(619) 615-6905
Peter.deddeh@sdcourt.ca.gov

Prosecutors:

Regan Savalla
Head Deputy City Attorney, Neighborhood Prosecution Unit
Office of the San Diego City Attorney
1200 Third Ave., Suite 700
San Diego, CA 92101
(619) 533-5682
Rsavalla@sandiego.gov

Richard McCue
Deputy District Attorney (San Diego)
500 Third Ave.
Chula Vista, CA 91910
(619) 691-4977
Richard.mccue@sdca.org

Public Defender:

Steve Binder
Deputy Public Defender
233 A St., Ste. 400
San Diego, CA 92101

(619) 338-4708
Steve.binder@sdcounty.ca.gov

Marsha Duggan
Deputy Public Defender (Retired)
Office of the Public Defender
233 A Street, Ste. 800
San Diego, CA. 92101
Purpleatty@aol.com

Court Administrator:

Karyn Frawley
Court Operations Manager
Central Division
Superior Court of CA, County of San Diego
220 W. Broadway
San Diego, CA 92101
(619) 531-4033
Karyn.frawley@sdcourt.ca.gov

Referral Agencies and Service Providers:

Andre Simpson
Chief Operations Officer
Veterans Village of San Diego
4141 Pacific Highway
San Diego, CA 92110
(619) 393-2027
Andre.simpson@vvsd.net

St. Vincent de Paul Village
Julie DeDe
Director of Social Services
1501 Imperial Ave.
San Diego, CA 92101
(619) 233-8500, ext. 1060
juliedede@neighbor.org

Bert Capati
St. Vincent de Paul Village
(619) 233-8500, ext. 1675
alberto.capati@neighbor.org

Access , Inc. YES! Program
Rachel Gorham
2621 Daniel Ave.
San Diego, CA 92111-6026
(858) 560-0871 ext. 114

County Medical Services
Janie Bridgers, MSW

P.O. Box 939016
San Diego, CA. 92193
(858) 495-1311

CRASH Short Term II
Denice Gansereit
4890 67th Street.
San Diego, CA. 92115
(619) 464-6207

Episcopal Community Services/Friend To Friend
Andrae Scott
1009 C. St.
San Diego, CA. 92101
(619) 238-2711

REACH/TELECARE
Kristina Guthrie/Gary Hubbard
466 26th St. 6th Floor
San Diego, CA. 92102
(619) 398-2196 (Kristina)
(619) 398-2181 (Gary)

Salvation Army/Adult Rehabilitation Center
Sally Lee/Scott Hall (resident mgr) x 344
1335 Broadway
San Diego, CA. 92101
(619) 239-4037 ext. 354

San Diego Rescue Mission
Shaunda Colson
120 Elm St.
San Diego, CA. 92101
(619) 819-1811/687 3720 ext 13430

Second Chance/STRIVE
Dennis Vermeersch
1501 Imperial Ave.
San Diego, CA. 92101
(619) 645-6443

Stepping Stone
Cecily Swanson
3767 Central Ave.
San Diego, CA. 92105
(619) 295-3995 ext. 102

Tradition One
Gloria Thompson/Musa Kaleem
4104 Delta St.
San Diego, CA. 92113
(619) 264-0141

Vet Center
Karen Schofeld-Smith
2900 Sixth Ave.
San Diego, CA. 92103
(619) 294-2040

Volunteers of America/SAMI
Susan Harmon
1111 Island Ave.
San Diego, CA. 92101
(619) 232-3150

YWCA – Passages
Rebecca Fox/Natasha Schwartz
1012 C Street
San Diego, CA. 92101
(619) 239-0355 x 236/226

Locations of Homeless Court Sessions:

Veterans Village of San Diego
4141 Pacific Highway
San Diego, CA 92110

St. Vincent de Paul Village
1501 Imperial Ave.
San Diego, CA 92101

Calendar:

The Homeless Court Program is a special Superior Court session held MONTHLY at Veteran Village of San Diego and St. Vincent de Paul Village on an alternating basis.

Each month staff from the public defender’s and prosecutor’s offices, various shelters, and the San Diego Superior Court carry out a series of synchronized steps which ultimately culminate in the HCP hearing.

- Week One: The homeless service agencies submit to the Office of the Public Defender (OPD) the list of the participants who have voluntarily requested court access. The OPD delivers the list to the court and prosecution.
- Week Two: The court and prosecution prepare cases on the list for the next scheduled Homeless Court Session at the shelter.
- Week Three: The assigned defense attorney meets with participants one week before the court hearing to review and prepare cases.
- Week Four: Court Personnel arrive at the shelter and hold proceedings and resolve cases.

Types of Cases Handled:

The Homeless Court Program addresses a broad range of misdemeanor offenses including, under the influence of a controlled substance, theft, and driving under the influence charges. The majority of cases heard in the HCP are public disturbance offenses such as illegal lodging, riding public transportation without paying, traffic offenses, drinking or urinating in public or jaywalking. The HCP cannot resolve felony, domestic violence, Prop 36 cases or parking tickets.

Dispositions:

The HCP plea agreement responds to the cases/offenses the homeless participants receive due to their condition and status: living on the streets. Additionally, the HCP agreement acknowledges the efforts the participants undertake before their appearance in court. The plea agreement recognizes the participant has completed the court order before the court imposes sentence. The participant has performed the program activities without the threat of custody or a larger fine. The participant completed the order before it was given because that is what he/she needed to do to make a move from the streets, through the shelter program, to self-sufficiency. On average, 90% of the Homeless Court cases are dismissed.

Annual Volume of Homeless Court Cases/Average Size of Calendar:

The 2005 calendar year had 2155 cases heard on the HCP (monthly average of cases is 180). The average number of participants in HCP is 55 each month.

SAN DIEGO HOMELESS COURT PROGRAM *North County*

Established 2005

Primary Contact:

Steve Binder
Deputy Public Defender
233 A ST., Ste 400
San Diego, CA 92101
(619) 338-4708
Steve.binder@sdcounty.ca.gov

Judge:

Honorable Joseph P. Brannigan, Judge
Superior Court of California, County of San Diego
North County Division
325 South Melrose Drive
Vista, CA 92081
760-940-4376
Joseph.Brannigan@sdcourt.ca.gov

Office of the District Attorney:

Evan Miller, Deputy District Attorney
San Diego County District Attorney's Office
325 South Melrose Drive, Ste. 5000
Vista, CA 92081
760-806-4032
Evan.Miller@sdcda.org

Office of the Public Defender:

Steve Binder
Deputy Public Defender
233 A ST., Ste 400
San Diego, CA 92101
(619) 338-4708
Steve.binder@sdcounty.ca.gov

Terri Peters.
Deputy Public Defender
Office of the Public Defender
400 S. Melrose Dr. Suite 200
Vista, CA. 92081

Phone: (760) 945 4081
Terri.peters@sdcounty.ca.gov

Court Administrator:

Stephanie Saracco-Reed, Court Operations Manager
Superior Court of California, County of San Diego
North County Division, Criminal
325 South Melrose Drive
Vista, CA 92081
760-940-4663
Stephanie.Saracco-Reed@sdcourt.ca.gov

Referral Agencies:

Brother Benno's
3260 Production Ave.
Oceanside, CA 92054
*Nick Sauer, Rick Rasmussen
(760) 439-1244

Casa Rafael
993 Postal Way
Vista, Ca 92083
*Paul Kobulnicky
(760) 630-9922

Choices in Recovery
733 So. Santa Fe Ave.
Vista, CA 92083
*Rafael Rubalcaba
(760) 945-5290

Community Resoure Center
650 Second Ave.
Escondido, CA 92024
*Lois Flaugh, Rafael Miramontes
(760) 753-8300

Family Recovery Center
1100 Sportfisher Dr.
Oceanside, CA 92054
*Laura Linton
(760) 439-6702

Fellowship Center

Green Oak Ranch
1237 Green Oak Rd.
Vista, CA 92081
*Carl J. Fielstra
(760) 727-0251

Interfaith Community Services
550-B W. Washington Ave.
Escondido, CA 92025
*Laura Loos-Hansen
(760) 489 8458 ext. 246

North County Lifeline, Inc.
200 Michigan Ave.
Vista, CA 92084
*Nicole Heesen
(760) 726-5124

Safe Haven
*Barb Alpent
Phone: (760) 480-2255 x109

Saint Clare's Home
243 S. Escondido Blvd. #120
Escondido, CA 92025
*Barbara Olinghouse
(760) 747-1686

Serenity House
123 Elm St.
Escondido, CA 92025
*Amy Adargo
(760) 741-6297

Veteran's Village of San Diego
3762-C Mission Ave.
Oceanside, CA 92054
*Harry Hansen
(760) 721-7071

Veteran's Village of San Diego – New Resolve
1207 S. Escondido Blvd.
Escondido, CA 92025
(760) 745-7829

Welcome Home
*Karla Lomiglio
(760) 439-6587

YMCA Oz
215 Barnes St.
Oceanside, CA 92054
*Christine Whitworth
(760) 721-8930

Website:
None.

Locations of Homeless Court Sessions:

Brother Benno's
3260 Production Ave.
Oceanside, CA 92054
760-439-1244
Contact: Nick Sauer

Veteran's Village of San Diego
New Resolve Program
1207 South Escondido Blvd.
Escondido, CA 92025
760-745-7829
Contact: Andre Simpson

Calendar:

The Homeless Court Program (HCP) is a special Superior Court session held MONTHLY at Veteran Village of San Diego in Escondido and Brother Benno's in Oceanside on an alternating basis.

Each month, staff from the Public Defender's and District Attorney's office, various providers/shelters, and the San Diego Superior Court carry out a series of synchronized steps which ultimately culminate in the HCP court hearing.

- Week One: The homeless service agencies submit to the Office of the Public Defender (PD) the list of the participants who have voluntarily request to appear at HCP. The PD delivers the list to the court and prosecution.
- Week Two: The court and prosecution prepare cases on the list for the next scheduled Homeless Court Session.
- Week Three: The assigned defense attorney meets with participants before the court hearing to review and prepare cases.
- Week Four: Court Personnel arrive at the designated location and hold proceedings and resolve cases.

Types of Cases Handled:

The Homeless Court Program addresses a broad range of misdemeanor offenses including, under the influence of a controlled substance, theft, and driving under the influence charges. The majority of cases heard in the HCP are public disturbance offenses such as illegal lodging, riding public transportation without paying, traffic offenses, drinking, urinating in public or jaywalking. The HCP cannot resolve felony, domestic violence, parking citations, Prop 36 or Drug Court cases.

Dispositions:

The HCP plea agreement responds to the cases/offenses the homeless participants receive due to their condition and status: living on the streets. Additionally, the HCP agreement acknowledges the efforts the participants undertake before their appearance in court. The plea agreement recognizes the participant has completed the court order before the court

imposes sentence. The participant has performed the program activities without the threat of custody or a larger fine. The participant completed the order before it was given because that is what he/she needed to do to make a move from the streets, through the shelter program, to self-sufficiency.

Annual Volume of Homeless Court Cases/Average Size of Calendar:

Homeless court began in North County in May 2005. HCP was not held in July due to Stand Down. The monthly average for the seven months HCP was held was 16 defendants with 43 cases. The numbers increased significantly in 2006. Again, HCP was not held in July due to Stand Down. The monthly average for January to September 2006 was 45 defendants with 124 cases.

SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY HOMELESS COURT PROGRAM

Established January 2006

Primary Contact:

Hon. Barbara A. Kronlund
Judge, Superior Court of California, County of San Joaquin
Juvenile Justice Center
535 W. Mathews Road
French Camp, CA 95231
(209) 468-4280
bak@courts.san-joaquin.ca.us

Judge:

Hon. Barbara A. Kronlund
Judge, Superior Court of California, County of San Joaquin
Juvenile Justice Center
535 W. Mathews Road
French Camp, CA 95231
(209) 468-4287 or 468-5042
bak@courts.san-joaquin.ca.us

Prosecutors:

DeAnna Solina
Deputy City Attorney
City Hall- 425 N. El Dorado Street
Stockton, CA 95202
(209) 937-8333
deanna.solina@ci.stockton.ca.us

Ed Busuttil
Assistant District Attorney
San Joaquin County District Attorney's Office
222 E. Weber Avenue, Room 202
Stockton, CA 95202
(209) 468-2400
ed.busuttil@sjcda.org

Mary D. Aguirre
Supervising District Attorney
San Joaquin County District Attorney's Office
222 E. Weber Avenue, Room 202
Stockton, CA 95202
(209) 468-2400
mary.aguirre@sjcda.org

Public Defenders:

James Larson
Public Defender
San Joaquin County Public Defender's Office
102 S. San Joaquin St. Room 1
Stockton, CA 95201-9030
(209) 468-2730
jl Larson@sjgov.org

Bryan Caldwell
Deputy Public Defender
San Joaquin County Public Defender's Office
102 S. San Joaquin St. Room 1
Stockton, CA 95201-9030
(209) 468-2730
bcaldwell@sjgov.org

Court Administrators:

Rosa Junqueiro
Court Executive Officer
San Joaquin County Superior Court
222 E. Weber Avenue, Room 303
Stockton, CA 95202
(209) 468-2827
junqueiro@courts.san-joaquin.ca.us

Sandi May
Manager, Criminal Department
San Joaquin County Superior Court
222 E. Weber Avenue, Room 101
Stockton, CA 95202
(209) 468-2935 or 468-2936
sandi.may@courts.san-joaquin.ca.us

Sally Self
Supervisor, Traffic Department
San Joaquin County Superior Court
222 E. Weber Avenue, Room 100
Stockton, CA 95202
(209) 468-2966 or 468-2920
sself@courts.san-joaquin.ca.us

Referral Agencies and Service Providers:

John Reynolds
Executive Director
Stockton Shelter for the Homeless
P.O. Box 4803
Stockton, CA 95204
(209) 465-3612
director@stockton-shelter.org

Edward Figueroa
Executive Director
St. Mary's Interfaith Community Services
545 W. Sonora Street
Stockton, CA 95203
(209) 467-0703
smidr.edward@sbcglobal.net

Joelle Gomez
Executive Director
Women's Center of San Joaquin County
620 N. San Joaquin Street
Stockton, CA 95202
(209) 941-2611
edwcsjc@aol.com

John Phillips
Professor, COP - Sociology
University of the Pacific
3601 Pacific Avenue
Stockton, California 95211
(209) 946-2930
jphillips@pacific.edu

Ron Green
Director
Veterans Administration
105 S. San Joaquin Street
Stockton, CA 95201
(209) 468-2917
rgreen@sjgov.org

Website:
None.

Location of Homeless Court Sessions:

Homeless Court is held at St. Mary's Interfaith Community Services, which is a safe and familiar environment for this court population.

St. Mary's Interfaith Community Services
545 W. Sonora Street
Stockton, CA 95203
(209)467-0703

Calendar:

Homeless Court is held the last Friday of the month from 3:00-5:00 pm. Individuals can sign-up for Homeless Court at several locations, including any homeless shelter in San Joaquin County, Veteran's Administration, and Women's Center.

How does the Homeless Court work?

1. Homeless Shelters sign up clients (noting their names, dates of birth, and if an interpreter is needed).
2. The information is forwarded to the court which runs all cases, bench warrants, etc. and prepares the court calendar.
3. The District Attorney and Public Defender's Offices plea- bargain the clients' cases prior to court.
4. Shelter case workers and Homeless agencies prepare information for court regarding each individual's progress and his/her case plan.
5. Cases are typically resolved with one appearance, with credit being given for community service and time spent in programs in lieu of jail and fines.

Types of Cases Handled:

The Homeless Court of San Joaquin County assists the homeless with clearing up minor traffic and morals offenses, bench warrants, and failures to appear without the threat of incarceration and fines. Individuals serve their sentences with volunteer work (community service at Stockton Homeless Shelter & Thrift, St. Mary's Interfaith Community Services, or the Emergency Food Bank) and through participation in programs (AA, Mental Health, etc.) as set up by their shelter case workers.

Dispositions:

2006	Defendants on Calendar	Cases on Calendar	Cases Resolved on 1 st Appearance	Cases Resolved on 2 nd Appearance	Cases Resolved on 3 rd Appearance	Cases Continued	Dropped- No Appearance
January	7	29	12			17	
February	15	29	9	3		10	7
March	15	44	7			25	12
April	28	70	14	5	6	31	14
May	13	31	7	2		20	1
June	17	35	2	2		10	21
July	17	34	2	1		10	21
August	27	73	28	4	1	20	20
TOTAL	139	345	81	17	7	143	96

Annual Volume of Homeless Court Cases/Average Size of Calendar:

The average size of calendar since the Homeless Court's inception in January 2006 (January through August) has been 43 cases.

SANTA CLARA COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT OUTREACH COURT

Established January 2003

Primary Contact:

Honorable Jerome P. Nadler
Judge of the Superior Court
Santa Clara County
191 North First Street
San Jose, CA 95113
jnadler@scscourt.org

Office of the District Attorney:

JoAnne McCracken, Chief Trial Deputy
Office of the District Attorney
County of Santa Clara
70 W. Hedding Street, West Wing
San Jose, California 95110
Telephone 408-792-2717
Facsimile 408-792-2587
jmccracken@da.sccgov.org

Office of the Public Defender:

Thompson Sharkey, Deputy Public Defender
Office of the Public Defender
County of Santa Clara
120 West Mission Street
San Jose, CA 95110
Phone: (408) 299-7700
Thompson.Sharkey@PDO.Co.Santa-Clara.CA.US

Court Administrators:

Roberta Stibbard
Director of Court Services
Superior Court of California
County of Santa Clara
191 North First Street
San Jose, CA 95113

Linda Vallejos
Court Manager, Court Services Division
Superior Court of California

County of Santa Clara
191 North First Street
San Jose, CA 95113

Referral Agencies and Service Providers:

Emergency Housing Consortium
Catherine Klosowski
Program Manager
EHC LifeBuilders
1077 N. Fifth Street
San Jose, CA 95112
(408) 539-2143

Bill Wilson Center
693 South 2nd St.
San Jose, CA 95112
(408) 925-0231

Catholic Charities
2625 Zanker Road
San Jose, CA
Contact: Hana Pederson
(408) 468-0100

Alliance for Community Care
2001 The Alameda
San Jose, CA.
Contact: Belinda Yee
(408) 261-7777 ext 134

Our House
51 North 5th Street
San Jose, CA
Contact: Bobby Seals

Sobrato Family Living Center
1509 Agnew Rd.
Santa Clara, CA 95054
Contact: Grace Cumbs
(408) 539-2150

Georgia Travis Center
297 Commercial Street
San Jose, CA 95112
Contact: Julia Burkhead
(408) 453-3124

Family Supportive Housing
1590 Las Plumas Ave.
San Jose, CA
(408) 926-8885

Salvation Army
Administrative and Family Services Office
359 N. 4th Street
P.O. Box 2 D
San Jose, CA 95109
(408) 282-1165

Locations of Homeless Court Sessions:

Emergency Housing Consortium
2011 Little Orchard Street
San Jose, CA 95125

Calendar:

Homeless Court is convened the first Saturday of every month.

Types of Cases Handled:

Outstanding warrants and pending matters for infractions and low level misdemeanor matters.

Dispositions:

Good cause being shown, some matters will be dismissed. Convictions are taken for the majority of the cases, however, and the sentence will include community service work at the shelter which they reside.

Annual Volume of Homeless Court Cases/Average Size of Calendar:

Approximately 300 cases are adjudicated annually. Calendar size is generally between 50 and 60 cases per session.

SANTA MARIA HOMELESS COURT

Established 2006

Primary Contacts:

Commissioner John McGregor
Santa Barbara Superior Court
(805) 346-7654
jmcgregor@sbcourts.org

Grace Van Doren
Public Health Department
(805) 346-7231
Grace.vandoren@sbcphd.org

Location of Homeless Court Sessions:

312 E. Cook Street
Dept. SM 9
Santa Maria, CA

Calendar:

2nd Wednesday of each month at 1:30 p.m.

Dispositions:

Community work service.

Annual Volume of Homeless Court Cases/Average Size of Calendar:

Unknown at this time since court was only recently implemented.

SONOMA COUNTY HOMELESS COURT/ HOMELESS PROTOCOL PROJECT

Established 2003

Primary Contact:

Honorable Gary Nadler
Superior Court of California
Hall of Justice
600 Administration Drive
Santa Rosa, CA 95403
(707) 565-2572

Website:

www.sonomacountyhomeless.org/court.php

While Sonoma County has not held a Homeless Court session recently, it is currently implementing a Homeless Protocol Project which includes discharge planning for homeless inmates.

VENTURA COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT HOMELESS COURT PROGRAM

Established 2000

Primary Contact:

Tina Rasnow, Coordinator
Self-Help Legal Access Center
Ventura County Superior Court
800 So. Victoria Ave.
Ventura, CA 93009
(805) 654-3879
tina.rasnow@ventura.courts.ca.gov

Judge:

Honorable John E. Dobroth, Judge
Ventura County Superior Court
800 So. Victoria Ave.
Ventura, CA 93009
(805) 654-3030
john.dobroth@ventura.courts.ca.gov

Office of the District Attorney:

Gilbert Romero, Deputy District Attorney
(805) 654-2524
gilbert.romero@ventura.org

Stephen Slyker, Deputy District Attorney

Office of the Public Defender:

Celia Cratch, Paralegal
(805) 654-2201
celia.cratch@ventura.org

Liana Johnsson, Deputy Public Defender
(805) 654-3514
liana.johnsson@ventura.org

Court Administrators:

Vicki Knight, Supervisor
Criminal/Traffic Division
Ventura County Superior Court

800 So. Victoria Ave., Rm. 118
Ventura, CA 93009
(805) 654-2663
vicki.knight@ventura.courts.ca.gov

Irene Lopez, Manager
Judicial Assistants
(805) 654-3574
irene.lopez@ventura.courts.ca.gov

Kelly O'Dell, Manager
Criminal/Traffic Division
(805) 654-2614
kelly.o'dell@ventura.courts.ca.gov

Referral Agencies and Service Providers:

Marya Barr
Cal-WORKS
West Ventura Job and Career Center
701 E. Santa Clara St.
Ventura, CA 93001
(805) 585-6442
Marya.barr@mail.co.ventura.ca.us

Casa Latina
Romerochanges@aol.com

Catholic Charities – Ventura
Christopher Reeve, Social Worker
303 North Ventura Ave.
Ventura, CA 93001-1936
(805) 643-4694
creeve@ccharitiesvc.org

Commission on Human Concerns
Bill Brown, Esq. –Supervising Attorney, Ext. 4033
Mike McLean and Jennifer
Aurora Moreno, FCS Manager
621 Richmond Ave.
Oxnard, CA 93030
(805) 486-4725

Day-Break Ministries
Chaplain Pam Scott
P.O. Box 472
Ventura, CA 93002
(805) 643-7114 (work)
pam@day-breakministries.org

HELP of Ojai, Community Assistance Program
Jessica Murray, Director

212 Fox Street
P.O. Box 621
Ojai, CA 93024
(805) 640-3320
cap@rain.org

H.O.P.E.S (Homeless Outreach Program and Enhanced Services)
TELECARE CORPORATION
Jeffery L. Hayden - Team Leader, Ext. 103 JeffreyH@Telecarecorp.com
Jerry Herrmann – Personal Service Coordinator II, Ext. 106
Larry Jewell – Case Worker
Ricardo Juarez – Case Worker, Ext. 104
2651 So. “C” St., Suite 201
Oxnard, CA 93033
(805) 385-7320

Lighthouse
Virginia Riley
150 N. Hayes Ave.
Oxnard, CA 93030
(805) 240-1644
virginiar@erescuemission.com

Lutheran Social Services
J.R. Jones - Executive Director
80 E. Hillcrest Dr., Suite #101
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360
(805) 497-6207

Many Mansions
Attn: Bernadette
80 Hillcrest Dr., Suite 103
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360
(805) 497-4302
Bernadette@manymansions.org

Operation Work
Dale Schuck
235 East Seventh Street
Oxnard, CA. 93031-6283
(805) 486-0473

Prototypes
Linda Fickel
(805) 382-9487

R.A.I.N. Project
Dewain Raymas
79 Daily Dr.
PMB 187
Camarillo, CA 93010
(805) 654-5531

Rescue Mission – Oxnard
Gilbert Endo – ext. 312
Steve Ebbinga, Program Director, ext. 314
234 E. 6th St.
Oxnard, CA 93030
(805) 487-1234

Salvation Army – Oxnard
Attn: Martin
622 Wooley Rd.
Oxnard, CA 93003
(805) 487-2074

Salvation Army – Ventura
Diane Hall, Executive Program Director
Amartinez1961@aol.com
Janet Keeling (janet_keeling@usw.salvationarmy.org)
155 South Oak Street
Ventura, CA 93001
(805) 648-4977

Samaritan Center
Virginia Nelson
280 Royal Ave.
Simi Valley, CA 93065
(805) 579-9166 (only until 11:00 a.m. M-F)
thesamaritancenter@yahoo.com

Simi Valley Department of Community Services
Sandra Thompson, Community Services Specialist
2929 Tapo Canyon Road
Simi Valley, CA 93063
(805) 583-6759
Sthomps@simivalley.org

Telecare Corporation
Timothy G. Kuehnel, Ph.D. - Administrator/Clinical Director
Las Posadas Service Center
1756 South Lewis Road.
Camarillo, CA 93012
(805) 383-3669, Ext. 202

Turning Point Foundation
Ranell Bean, Residential Coordinator
1065 E. Main St.
Ventura, CA 93001
(805) 652-0596
ebarina@turningpointfoundation.org

Ventura County Behavioral Health
Emergency Shelter Program
Toni Palazuelos, Mental Health Associate
801 Poinsettia Place
Ventura 93001
(805) 289-1709
toni.palazuelos@mail.co.ventura.ca.us

Website:

www.ventura.courts.ca.gov

Locations of Homeless Court Sessions:

Commission on Human Concerns
621 Richmond Ave.
Oxnard, CA 93030

Rescue Mission – Oxnard
234 E. 6th St.
Oxnard, CA 93030
(805) 487-1234

Salvation Army – Ventura
155 South Oak Street
Ventura, CA 93001
(805) 648-4977

Samaritan Center
280 Royal Ave.
Simi Valley, CA 93065
(805) 579-9166

Calendar:

Homeless Court is generally scheduled on the last Friday of every other month, but sometimes we skip two months due to the holidays. It convenes at 11:00 a.m. at various scheduled locations on a rotation basis.

Types of Cases Handled:

Any infraction, and certain limited misdemeanors arising out of the condition of homelessness, such as P.C. 647(f) or (j), and equivalent provisions in the California Code of Regulations. Other low level misdemeanors may be handled with the consent of the district attorney's office, public defender, and the court, particularly old cases where there was no victim restitution ordered, and the defendant is no longer on probation.

Dispositions:

Credit is generally given for community service hours at the rate of \$10 @ hour. Credit may sometimes be given for successful completion of sobriety programs, or in the case of those suffering from severe mental or physical disability or limitations, credit may even

be given for making significant behavioral changes (i.e. not drinking in the park anymore). The court often defers to recommendations made by the defendant's social worker in terms of whether to grant credit towards outstanding fines and fees.

Annual Volume of Homeless Court Cases/Average Size of Calendar:

350 to 450 cases on average. Calendar size is generally between 75 and 100 cases per session.

HOMELESS COURTS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

THE ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO HOMELESS COURT PROGRAM

Established 2002

Primary Contacts:

William H. McGuill Jr.
Judicial Specialist, Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court
401 Lomas NW
P.O. Box 133
Albuquerque, NM 87103
(505) 841-8254
WMcguill@metrocourt.state.nm.us

Jill Ingraham
Chief Probation Officer, Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court
401 Lomas NW
P.O. Box 133
Albuquerque, NM 87103
JIngraham@metrocourt.state.nm.us

Judges:

Hon. Victoria J. Grant
Presiding Criminal Judge, Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court
401 Lomas NW
P.O. Box 133
Albuquerque, NM 87103
(505) 841-8261
VGrant@metrocourt.state.nm.us

Hon. Benjamin Chavez
Judge, Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court
401 Lomas NW
P.O. Box 133
Albuquerque, NM 87103
(505) 841-8193
BChavez@metrocourt.state.nm.us

Prosecutors:

Jonathan L. Ibarra
2nd Judicial District Attorney
520 Lomas Blvd. NW
Albuquerque, NM 87102
(505) 841-7100

Carlos F. Pacheco
2nd Judicial District Attorney
520 Lomas Blvd. NW
Albuquerque, NM 87102-2118
(505) 841-7100

Vashti A. Lowe
2nd Judicial District Attorney
520 Lomas Blvd. NW
Albuquerque, NM 87102-2118
(505) 841-7100

Defense Attorneys (Private Practice-Pro Bono):

Thomas J. Clear
Clear & Clear PA
7112 Aztec NE
Albuquerque, NM 87110
(505) 883-6944

Daniel A. Ivey-Soto
The Ivey-Soto Law Firm
1420 Carlisle Blvd. NE #208
Albuquerque, NM 87110
(505) 881-4475

Marcella Neville
Attorney at Law
721 5th St. NW
Albuquerque, NM 87102
(505) 248-1565

Court Administrator:

James Stoker Sr.
Deputy Court Administrator, Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court
401 Lomas NW
P.O. Box 133
Albuquerque, NM 87103
(505) 841-8102
JStoker@metrocourt.state.nm.us

Referral Agencies and Service Providers:

E. Julian Ortega
Program Director
Good Shepherd Center
218 Iron St. SW
P.O. Box 749
Albuquerque, NM 87103
(505) 243-2527

Karen Navarro
Client Advocate
St. Martin's Hospitality Center
1201 3rd St. NW
Albuquerque, NM 87125
(505) 242-4399

Dominick Zurlo
Program Director
Albuquerque Healthcare for the Homeless
P.O. Box 25445
Albuquerque, NM 87125
(505) 766-5197

Location of Homeless Court Sessions:

St. Martin's Hospitality Center
1201 3rd St. NW
Albuquerque, NM 87125
(505) 242-4399

Calendar:

The Homeless Court is a special Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court session held monthly at St. Martin's Hospitality Center in Albuquerque, NM. In addition, a special Homeless Court session is held every October in support of the Department of Veterans Affairs' "Project Hand-Up."

Types of Cases Handled:

The Homeless Court hears only cases that fall within the jurisdiction of the Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court; that is, only cases where the alleged crimes occurred in Bernalillo County. Beyond that, the Homeless Court addresses a wide range of misdemeanor cases. The most common charges are quality of life offenses, including, drinking in public, criminal trespass, and public nuisance. The Court does not entertain felony cases or cases arising from domestic violence, driving while intoxicated, probation violation, or restitution charges.

Dispositions:

A homeless defendant is given access to the Homeless Court Program through a referral letter submitted to the Court by a case manager, counselor, or client advocate representing an agency that is providing services to the homeless defendant. Further, any bench warrants associated with the homeless defendant's cases are temporarily cancelled, allowing the defendant to pursue treatment, employment, and housing without the fear of being arrested. The bench warrants are reinstated if the defendant fails to comply with the treatment outlined by their referring agency or if they fail to appear for their Homeless Court hearing.

About one month before the scheduled Homeless Court hearing, the agency representative who referred the defendant to the Court must submit a progress letter and

supporting documents, documenting the progress and effort the homeless defendant has made in treatment programs, employment searches, and efforts to arrange stable housing. Prior to the Homeless Court hearing, the letter and documents are reviewed by the presiding judge, assistant district attorneys, and private-practice defense attorneys.

If the Homeless Court judge determines from the progress letter and supporting documents that the homeless defendant is following the agency's outlined program and showing progress in moving from the streets to self-sufficiency, the judge will order the defendant's cases be calendared for a Homeless Court hearing. Upon this determination, the prosecutors meet with the defense attorneys and attempt to reach an agreement that will resolve the defendant's cases. In most instances, where the defendant has succeeded in completing a treatment program, finding employment, and finding housing, the prosecution will offer a motion to dismiss the charges. If the judge orders the charges dismissed, the defendant's work in the treatment program, and efforts in securing employment and housing are converted to credit time served and applied to the sentence to resolve the case.

Annual Volume of Homeless Court Cases/Average Size of Calendar:

At the first Homeless Court session in 2002, Judge Victoria J. Grant heard the cases of one defendant. Since that session, the number of defendants and cases has gradually grown. In 2005, approximately 200 cases were transferred from the traditional trial court to the Homeless Court Program. Of this total, 80 cases were resolved in Homeless Court hearings, and 116 cases were removed from the program and reassigned to the original trial court. (Reassignment to the original trial court typically occurs because the defendant stops going to treatment.)

On the average, six to ten defendants appear before the Homeless Court each month. Approximately 99 % of their cases are resolved at the monthly hearing. Cases that are not resolved at the hearing are continued to the next Homeless Court session.

ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN WASHTENAW COUNTY STREET OUTREACH COURT

Established October 2005

Primary Contact:

Ann Savickas, BSW, JD
15th District Probation Supervisor
101 E. Huron PO Box 8650
Ann Arbor, MI 48107
(734) 994-2753
AMSavickas@a2gov.org

Alternate Contact:

Emilio Peña
Probation Agent
15th Judicial District Court
101 E. Huron
P.O. Box 8650
Ann Arbor, MI 48107-8650
(734) 997-1465
EAPena@a2gov.org

Judge:

Honorable Elizabeth Hines
15th District Court
101 E. Huron
PO Box 8650
Ann Arbor, MI 48107
(734) 222-3266
EPHines@A2gov.org

Location:

Sessions are held at the County's Annex Building located across the street from the Courthouse in downtown Ann Arbor.

Calendar:

Street Outreach Court convenes 6 times yearly, in even numbered months. Sessions begin at noon at the Courthouse Annex 110 N. Fourth in the first floor conference room.

Types of Cases Handled:

The Street Outreach Court offers individuals who are experiencing homelessness (or at risk of becoming homeless), and who have demonstrated their commitment to working with service programs to reduce the recurrence of offending behavior, the opportunity to resolve Washtenaw County cases of civil infractions and non-violent misdemeanors, including warrants.

Features:

SOC is a community project of the Washtenaw County criminal justice system and advocates for the homeless. SOC offers individuals who are homeless or at risk of homelessness and who have demonstrated their commitment to working with service programs to reduce the recurrence of offending behavior, the opportunity to resolve Washtenaw County cases of civil infractions and non-violent misdemeanors, including warrants. To be eligible, the applicant must have voluntarily entered into an Action Plan with his or her service provider to address issues that led to the pending charges and will support the person's efforts to become self-sufficient. An Action Plan may focus on substance abuse and/or mental health treatment, literacy, job skills, parenting, or other support and treatment, depending on the individual's needs. We rely on the referring agency to develop the plan with the defendant and to evaluate the defendant's progress. If the prosecutor agrees the person is eligible for SOC, any warrants are held while the person participates in the program. Cases are ultimately dismissed or closed, credit for successful completion of the Action Plan, as approved by the parties.

Annual Volume of Homeless Court Cases/Average Size of Calendar:

We estimate that we clear an average of 25 cases per docket.

DENVER HOMELESS COURT

Established 2005

Primary Contact:

Dani Eliscu
City Attorney
(720) 913-3299

Deborah Ortega
Executive Director, Commission to End Homelessness
1200 Federal Blvd.
Denver, CO 80204-3221
(720) 944-2200
Deborah.ortega@dhs.co.denver.co.us

Locations of Homeless Court Sessions:

Denver County Court, City & County Building, Courtroom 151P

Calendar:

Sessions are held on the last Friday of each month (additional days may be added if necessary).

Types of Cases Handled:

Municipal – non violent offenses, including outstanding bench warrants.

The program was put in place to assist individuals who are homeless that have received a ticket from the City and County of Denver for a violation related to homelessness, such as trespassing, public lewdness, public intoxication or other non-violent infractions. This court does not deal with felonies. To have a client seen by this court, one should be referred by an agency approved by the City Attorney's office. Public Defender, Frank Moya works with the City Attorney's office to schedule a case to be heard by Judge Burd and Moya represents the individuals in court.

Dispositions:

Work release and minor fines. Usually when a participant is involved in one of the approved programs, they are offered court costs only and continue treatment. They are eligible to work off any fine.

Annual Volume of Homeless Court Cases/Average Size of Calendar:

To date, the average number of cases is approximately 50.

CITY OF HOUSTON MUNICIPAL COURTS/ HOMELESS COURT

Established 2006

Primary Contact:

Anthony Love, President/CEO
Coalition for the Homeless of Houston/Harris County, Inc.
811 Dallas, suite 821
Houston, TX 77002
(713) 739-7514
alove@homelesshouston.org

Judge:

Honorable Berta Mejia
City of Houston Municipal Courts
1400 Lubbock
Houston, TX 77002
(713) 247-5464
Berta.Mejia@cityofhouston.net

Liaison to the Courts:

Scot More
Community Resource Manager
Coalition for the Homeless of Houston/Harris County, Inc.
811 Dallas, suite 821
Houston, TX 77002
(713) 739-7514

Referral Agencies:

AIDS Foundation of Houston
Angela House
Bridge Over Troubled Waters
Catholic Charities
Extended Aftercare
Harmony House
HCHVH, VA Medical Center
Healthcare for the Homeless – Houston
Houston Area Community Services
Legacy Community Health
Lord of the Streets
MHMRA – NPC/PATH Homeless Program at Bristow
Mission of Yahweh
Path to Success

Riverside General Hospital
Salvation Army's Sally's House
SEARCH – Men Challenge
SEARCH/PATH Program
Star of Hope – Men's Development
Star of Hope – Women and Family
Star of Hope Transitional Living Center
US Vets at Midtown Terrace
US Vets at the DeGeorge
Westside Homeless Partnership
Homeless Volunteer Lawyers Program

Website:

www.homelesshouston.org

Locations of Homeless Court Sessions:

City of Houston Municipal Courts
1400 Lubbock
Houston, TX 77002
www.houstontx.gov

Calendar:

Homeless Court is held the fourth Wednesday of each month in court 8/16 (in basement) at 4pm. Applications are due to the Coalition for the Homeless by end of business, the second Tuesday of that month.

Types of Cases Handled:

All class C misdemeanors filed with the City of Houston's Municipal Court.

Homeless Court is a 100% volunteer program from the participant.

- Person must be homeless
- Person must be living at or participating at an agency that serves the homeless population
- Person believes she/ he has unresolved misdemeanor offense(s)
- Person must have satisfactorily completed a rehabilitative program

Homeless Court is not limited exclusively to the city. Houston's Homeless Court Program is still evolving and working to expand services into the County courts in 2007.

Annual Volume of Homeless Court Cases/Average Size of Calendar:

A maximum of 30 clients are set monthly. Since conception in October 2005, the Homeless Court docket has averaged 26 clients per month, assisting over 312 persons in their path to exiting homelessness.

MARICOPA COUNTY, ARIZONA REGIONAL HOMELESS COURT

Established 2006

Judge:

Hon. Louraine Arkfeld
Presiding Judge
Tempe Municipal Court
140 East 5th Street
Tempe, AZ 85281
(480) 350-8271
louraine_arkfeld@tempe.gov

Prosecutor:

Wilfred (Wil) Gonzalez
Assistant City Attorney III
City Prosecutor's Office
300 W Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85003
(602) 256-3506
will.gonzalez@phoenix.gov

Office of the Public Defender:

Gary M. Kula
Executive Director – Public Defender
Phoenix City Hall
200 W Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85003
(602) 534-2380
gary.kula@phoenix.gov

Court Administrator:

Doug Pilcher
Criminal Court Administrator
Phoenix Municipal Court
300 W. Washington St, 9th floor
Phoenix, AZ 85003
(602) 256-3547
doug.pilcher@phoenix.gov

Referral Agencies and Service Providers:

CASS Emergency Shelter & Steele Commons Program

Lodestar Day Resource Center

Community Bridges

Labor's Community Service Agency

Native American Connections

USVets

Website:

<http://phoenix.gov/COURT/homeless.html>

Location of Homeless Court Sessions:

Lodestar Day Resource Center
125 W. Jackson
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Calendar:

Third Tuesday of every month at 1:30 p.m.

Types of Cases Handled:

Criminal misdemeanor "survival type" crimes and traffic charges from Phoenix and Tempe Municipal Courts.

Dispositions:

Sanctions converted to community service hours (typically 120 to 180 hours) completed in reintegration/treatment program.

Annual Volume of Homeless Court Cases/Average Size of Calendar:

Started in February 2006. First case on 7-18-06. So far, one defendant w/ multiple cases.

CITY OF TUCSON - PIMA COUNTY HOMELESS COURT PROGRAM

Established 2004

Primary Contact:

Hon. Michael P. Pollard
Tucson City Court
103 East Alameda
Tucson, AZ
(520) 837 – 3228
Mpollar1@tucsonaz.gov

Judge:

Hon. Michael P. Pollard
Tucson City Court
103 East Alameda
Tucson, AZ
(520) 837 - 3228
Mpollar1@tucsonaz.gov

Prosecutor:

City of Tucson Prosecutor's Office
103 East Alameda #501
Tucson, AZ 85726-7210
(520) 791-4104

Public Defender:

Tucson City Public Defender
103 East Alameda #601
Tucson, AZ 85701-1202
(520) 791-4857

Court Administrator:

Joan E. Harphant
Chief Court Administrative Officer
103 East Alameda
Tucson, AZ 85726-7210
Jharpha1@tucsonaz.gov

Referral Agencies:

The referral sources are the social service agencies in the Pima County area. The primary contact is Mary Pat Sullivan of Comin Home - mpsullivan@cominhome.net.

Locations of Homeless Court Sessions:

Green Valley Justice Court

Contact person: Justice Gail A. Wight, (520) 648-0658, gwight@courts.sp.state.az.us

Marana Municipal Court

Contact person: Joe Teta, (520) 382-2700, jteta@marana.com

Oro Valley Magistrate Court

Contact person: Ari Mora, (520) 229-4778, amora@courts.sp.state.az.us

Pima County Consolidated Justice Courts

Contact person: Yvonne, (520) 740 -3505, yhendrix@jp.pima.gov

Sahuarita Municipal Court

South Tucson City Court

Contact person: Honorable Ronald A. Wilson, (520) 917 -1568,
Rwilson@southtucson.org

Tucson City Court

Contact person: Lynnette Sabo, (520) 791-5474 ext 1194, Lynnette.Sabo@tucsonaz.gov

Calendar:

Monthly.

Types of Cases Handled:

The Homeless Court addresses a broad spectrum of misdemeanor offenses, including traffic offenses, drinking in public, loitering and other minor offenses. In order to be eligible for Homeless Court, participants must have been in residence or active treatment for at least 60 days.

Dispositions:

The court order for sentencing substitutes participation in agency programs for fines and custody. The majority of cases are heard and resolved in one hearing. With alternative sentencing, the Homeless Court gives “credit for time served” for the participant’s accomplishments in shelter activities.

Annual Volume of Homeless Court Cases/Average Size of Calendar:

The participation in Tucson City Court averages 8 cases per session at each monthly session. The contacts in the other Courts are listed above under “Locations of Homeless Court Sessions.” There has been participation in the other courts. The numbers are not currently available.

SALT LAKE CITY JUSTICE COURT HOMELESS OUTREACH PROGRAM

Established 2004

Primary Contact:

Judge John Baxter
Salt Lake City Justice Court
333 South 200 East
Salt Lake City, UT 84111
(801) 535-6442
john.baxter@slcgov.com

Judge:

Judge John Baxter
(see contact information above)

Prosecutor:

Simarjit “Sim” Gill
Salt Lake City Prosecutor
349 South 200 East, Suite 500
Salt Lake City, UT 84111
(801) 535-7767
simarjit.gill@slcgov.com

Public Defender:

Patrick L. Anderson
Director, Misdemeanor Division
Salt Lake Legal Defender Association
424 East 500 South, Suite 100
Salt Lake City, UT 84111
(801) 532-5444
panderson@sllda.com

Court Administrator:

Mary Johnston
Court Director
Salt Lake City Justice Court
333 South 200 East
Salt Lake City, UT 84111
(801) 535-6421
mary.johnston@slcgov.com

Referral Agencies and Service Providers:

Catholic Community Services
James Upton, Director, Emergency Services
235 South Rio Grande Street
Salt Lake City, UT 84101
(801) 363-7710
jupton@ccsutah.org

Salt Lake City Police Department

Volunteers of America

Indian Walk In Center

Website:

None.

Location:

Weigand Center
235 South Rio Grande Street
Salt Lake City, UT 84101
(801) 363-7710

Calendar:

The Salt Lake City Justice Court Homeless Outreach Program (Homeless Court) is a bi-weekly calendar held Friday afternoons at Catholic Community Service's Weigand Center in Salt Lake City.

Citizens with cases before the court are able to sign up for a court date during the week preceding the Friday court at the front desk of the Weigand Center. Center personnel fax the sign up sheet to the courthouse staff by 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, the day before court. Court staff then locates files, inserts recent case histories and blank sentence/minute entry forms, and otherwise prepares them for court.

Individuals who have not signed up may walk in to the Homeless Court to resolve cases if they have a citation in their possession, or may have warrants recalled and future court dates set. Walk in clients see the judge after clients with case files.

We have community and attorney volunteers present to assist with management of the calendar and legal questions people may have.

Prosecutors and defenders do not attend Homeless Court, so the range of dispositions is somewhat limited.

Types of Cases Handled:

Salt Lake City Justice Court is a court of limited subject matter jurisdiction (mid-level misdemeanors and below), so we deal only with misdemeanors. For all cases over which

we have jurisdiction including DUI and violence cases we can recall warrants, set court dates and appoint public defenders if appropriate.

The majority of offenses are public order offenses such as Trespass, Open Container (Alcohol) in Public, Public Intoxication, Urinating in Public, Camping and Park Curfew violations.

We cannot resolve parking cases. For traffic cases, the judge refers defendants to the courthouse traffic counter with approval to resolve the case through community service.

Dispositions:

In all cases, warrants are recalled without fee. Defendants are not booked out of Homeless Court. The defendant may enter a not guilty plea and set the matter for a hearing at the courthouse.

If the defendant wishes to resolve a case or cases at Homeless Court, we are limited to accepting guilty pleas as convictions and are generally limited to the public order offenses described above. If a person has five or more cases, the judge enters pleas of not guilty and sets the matters for hearings at the court house.

Sentencing is for community service, probation not to exceed 90 days, and probation terminates upon receipt by the court of proof of community service. The court gives hour for hour credit for community service for attendance at treatment or self-help programs.

Annual Volume of Homeless Court Cases/Average Size of Calendar:

For 2006, Homeless Court has seen 1,136 cases in 18 sessions. Since July 1, 2006, we have seen 450 cases in 5 sessions.

VANCOUVER, WASHINGTON HOMELESS COURT

Established 2004

Primary Contacts:

Maggie Smith Evansen
Criminal Defense Attorney
(360) 213-0053
msevansen@qwest.net

Charles Buckley, Jr.
Attorney
(360) 693-2421
cbuckleylaw@buckleylaw.com