



# Court Community Outreach 2024 Coming Events

Email [Events@scscourt.org](mailto:Events@scscourt.org) for details!

## Color of Justice - February 21, 2024



In recognition of Black History Month, MLK Jr. Day, the Fred Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties, and Cesar Chavez Day, the Court Community Outreach Committee hosts the Color of Justice Program to encourage youth from underrepresented groups to pursue careers in “justice” (broadly defined). The Color of Justice Program exposes high school and junior college students to careers they otherwise may not be able to visualize. The program provides an opportunity for court observation and interaction with judges and culminates at the Family Justice Center for Panel Presentations and a keynote speaker. By seeing judges and justice partners from diverse backgrounds and hearing about their career paths, the Court hopes to encourage and support students on their own path to a career in justice.

## Read Across Santa Clara County - March 1, 2024

During the first week of March, the Court Community Outreach Committee selects one local elementary school to “adopt” for Read Across Santa Clara County. Judicial officers personally select books related to justice, fairness, kindness, and other important virtues to read to the students and then donate to the school. Judicial officers wear their robes to the visit so that students can enjoy this reading session from “a real-life” judge and learn more about the values important to their role in our community.



## Young Women’s Power Lunch - March 22, 2024 A Women’s Heritage Month Celebration



In March, the Court Community Outreach Committee hosts a mentorship event to promote and empower young women in Santa Clara County. This special day is focused on students ages 8-12<sup>th</sup> grade who identify as female and who face any barrier that they cannot see beyond. During the lunch, the young women will engage in activities and small group discussions with successful female judges, attorneys, elected officials, and other professionals to hear how these women overcame challenges to achieve their dreams.

## Law Day - May 1, 2024

Law Day, held annually on May 1, is a national day set aside to celebrate the rule of law. Law Day provides an opportunity to understand how law and the legal process protect our liberty, strive to achieve justice, and contribute to the freedoms that all Americans share. In celebration, the Court Community Outreach Committee promotes a Law Day video contest inviting high school students to submit a brief video to highlight their interpretation of the Law Day Theme. This event encourages civic engagement and learning and creates a platform for student voice.

The 2024 Law Day theme is “Voices of Democracy” – a recognition that in democracies, the people rule. For nearly 250 years, Americans have expressed their political views and wishes by speaking their minds and voting in elections.



# Constitution Month

## September 2024



Constitution Day (and Citizenship Day) is celebrated every year on September 17<sup>th</sup> and commemorates the signing of the United States Constitution on September 17, 1787.

To further civic learning, judicial officers, with the assistance of legal partners including deputy district attorneys, deputy public defenders, and local attorneys from the SCC Bar, visit 5<sup>th</sup> grade students either in-person or virtually to educate these young minds about the Constitution and the branches of government. Students have an opportunity to engage in Q & A with the presenter to gain a better understanding of history, democracy, the rule of law, and this very important document. A 2020 [Constitution Day presentation](#) is available to view on YouTube.

## Educator's Day with the Bench

### October 2024

Educator's Day is an annual event which focuses on issues that intersect the education and justice systems. Past topics have included mental health awareness and issues, social media issues, gang-involved youth, chronic absenteeism, mandatory reporting, understanding the Juvenile Dependency and Juvenile Justice systems, and more.

This all day event gathers educators throughout the county (with priority given to principals, district representatives, or a designated representative from the school site to reach the greatest number of schools) to hear from local experts in a variety of fields, share stories of best practices, and leave with tools and resources to best serve their students.



**In addition to the above-planned events, the Court Community Outreach Committee provides opportunities to engage with the Court through visits to the courthouses or by scheduling a judicial officer to visit the school.**

**To schedule a visit to the Court, a mock trial, or a speaker, email [visit@scscourt.org](mailto:visit@scscourt.org).**

- **Court Visits:**

- The Court welcomes community organizations and educational institutions to participate in organized visits. Court visits are tailored to the age, educational purpose, and time allocations of the individual organizations.
- Most court proceedings are open to the public and individuals are always welcome to attend open proceedings to learn more about the court process. Large groups are recommended to arrange a court tour or visit through the court so that judges and deputies can be notified.

- **Mock Trial:**

- Teachers or organizations may request a visit to the courthouse to engage in a mock trial. Depending on the age level, the Court can provide age appropriate scripts (such as the People v. the Big Bad Wolf in the Little Red Riding Hood story or fact patterns for students to prepare on their own.
- Participation in a mock trial gives students a better understanding and appreciation of the third branch of government and the roles of the different players involved in a trial.

- **Speakers:**

- Judicial Officers may be available to speak to members of the public, whether students or adults on a wide variety of topics. Please note that ethical rules limit the topics on which a judicial officer may present (e.g., judicial officers may not discuss pending cases or matters that may come before them).