Superior Court of California
County of Santa Clara

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2023 Educator's Day at the Court: Court and Community Working Together

Santa Clara County Superior Court provides training and discussion for educators in areas that cross over from schools into the justice system

SAN JOSÉ, California (October 31, 2023): On Thursday, October 26, 2023, the Santa Clara County Superior Court hosted its eleventh annual Educator's Day, which brought together approximately 100 superintendents, principals, teachers, and counselors from across the county to discuss issues at the intersection of education and law. Funded with a grant from the California Judges Foundation, the objective of the event is to provide educators with insightful discussions, valuable perspectives, and collaborative solutions to address the most pressing challenges in our educational system. Educator's Day began with a warm welcome from the Chair of the Court Community Outreach Committee, Hon. Julia Alloggiamento. Her opening remarks set the tone for a day of engaging discussions on education's most pressing issues, such as re-engaging students, addressing absenteeism, school lockdowns, and strengthening school-to-community connections.

"We ask our educators to be teachers, counselors, disciplinarians, parent figures, mindfulness practitioners, and safety monitors. We know they serve on the front line for critical issues that often find their way into the justice system, including dealing with excessive absenteeism after COVID and preparing for safe and effective school lockdowns in today's world. Our goal for Educator's Day is to provide educators with information, tools, best practices, and resources to take back to their school sites to enable them to provide the greatest care and education for the students of our community."

Deputy District Attorney Alisha Schoen, Lead of the Truancy Abatement Team, delivered a comprehensive approach to tackling absenteeism, acknowledging its complexity. She emphasized, "The key lies in identifying chronic absenteeism as a crucial warning sign and uncovering the underlying factors that trigger it. Whether these challenges arise from issues like substance abuse, unaddressed mental health concerns among students or their parents, housing instability, transportation difficulties, or limited access to healthcare, our duty is to address these issues head-on and implement a range of supportive measures. This, in turn, will empower students to maintain their commitment to education and succeed in their academic

journeys." These insights remind us that by recognizing the multifaceted nature of absenteeism and addressing its root causes, we can pave the way for a more inclusive and supportive educational environment, ensuring the success of every student.

In the enlightening session on "Student Perspectives on School Climate and Reengagement in Education," attendees had the privilege of gaining firsthand insights from a panel of high school students who are in a continuation program, offering unique perspectives on school climate and their personal journeys towards reengagement in education. The youth shed light on the challenges faced by students and provided suggestions on how educators can create a more inclusive and supportive learning environment. Put simply, one student reminded the educators that the greatest thing they could do for their students was to "be kind" and "be respectful."

The session on "Code Red School Lockdowns: What is the toll on students, teachers, staff, families, neighbors, and the community, and what can be done to foster healing and resilience during and after a school lockdown?" underscored the necessity of addressing the broader community's needs in the wake of such crises. The panelists offered invaluable guidance for educators, parents, and community members, equipping them with the knowledge and strategies required to support those affected by these distressing situations. Sheriff Bob Jonsen, County of Santa Clara stated, "Through time and practice, fire and earthquake drills have become normal and if you ask a student to do a fire drill, they will be able to go through it like second nature, because they practice. It is not the quantity, but the quality of the lock-down drill's process. We practice so we can instill confidence in the purpose behind the safety exercise." The panel and audience agreed that awareness and knowledge for all parties involved is necessary to develop a sense of readiness among students, school faculty and families, so all are better equipped to stay calm and make informed decisions during high-stress situations.

This day of insightful discussions, valuable perspectives, and collaborative solutions showcased the power of collaboration to address the most pressing challenges in our educational system. The "Resources and Engagement" panel of esteemed speakers highlighted the importance of collaborative efforts, offering a comprehensive array of resources and opportunities to enhance attendance and engagement, thereby empowering all stakeholders in the education ecosystem to contribute positively to the future of our students and communities. The diverse range of speakers, from distinguished legal professionals to dedicated educators and students, highlighted the importance of unity and community engagement in fostering positive change.

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For access to a wealth of valuable resources discussed during Educator's Day 2023, we invite you to visit the Court's website: https://www.scscourt.org/educatorsday/default.shtml

EDUCATOR'S DAY

Thursday, 26 October, 2023 | 8:30am - 3:30pm
Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara

PROGRAM

8:30AM - 8:40AM

Welcome and Introductions

Judge Julia Alloggiamento
Chair, Court Community Outreach Committee

8:40AM - 9:55AM

Re-engaging Students, Addressing Absenteeism, and Strengthening School-to-Community Connections

Alisha Schoen
Deputy District Attorney, District Attorney's Office

BREAK 9:55AM - 10:10AM

10:10AM - 10:30AM

Community Outreach Presentation

Judge Julia Alloggiamento
Chair, Court Community Outreach Committee

10:30AM - 11:30AM

Student Perspectives on School Climate and Reengagement in Education

- Dane Caldwell-Holden, Director of Alternative Education for Santa Clara County
- Mark Camilleri, Principal, South County Alternative Education, Santa Clara County Office of Education
- Eugene Santillan, Principal, Alternative Education North County, Santa Clara County Office of Education
- Selected High School Students

EDUCATOR'S DAY

Thursday, 26 October, 2023 | 8:30am - 3:30pm
Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara

PROGRAM

11:30AM - 12:30PM

Resources and Engagement Opportunities for Students, Teachers, and Schools

- Jesus Sanchez, Supervising Probation Officer, Educational Services Unit, County of Santa Clara Probation Department
- Jennifer Elenes, Attendance & Engagement Coordinator, Santa Clara County Office of Education
- Gloria Maturino, Director - Parent Project, District Attorney's Office
- Rachel Fightmaster, Self Help Center Supervising Attorney, Superior Court
- Olivia Santillán, Director, Executive Services and Community Engagement, Santa Clara County Office of Education

LUNCH 12:30PM - 1:30PM

1:30PM - 3:15PM

Code Red School Lockdowns: What is the toll on students, teachers, staff, families, neighbors, and the community, and what can be done to foster healing and resilience during and after a school lockdown?

- Judge L. Michael Clark, Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Division
- Catherine Aspiras, LMFT, Division Director, School-Based Services, County of Santa Clara Behavioral Health Services
- Mary Ann Dewan, Ph.D., Santa Clara County Superintendent of Schools, Santa Clara County Office of Education
- Sheriff Robert Jonsen, Santa Clara County
- Tammy McCoy-Arballo, Psy.D., Clinical Director, County of Santa Clara Trauma Recovery Center
- Marisa McKeown, Supervising Deputy District Attorney, Santa Clara County

Speaker Biographies

Hon. Julia Alloggiamento, Judge of the Superior Court

The Honorable Julia Alloggiamento was born and raised in San Jose, California. Judge Alloggiamento graduated *cum laude* from UCLA for undergrad and *magna cum laude* from UC Law SF (formerly called University of California, Hastings College of Law) for law school. After law school, she clerked for the Federal District Court in Los Angeles and then worked for several years at Morrison & Foerster as a litigation associate, handling a variety of cases involving financial institutions, intellectual property, class actions, real estate, and *pro bono* work. She served as a Deputy District Attorney in Santa Clara County from 1998 through 2010, where she prosecuted a variety of crimes, including domestic violence, assaults, and homicide. For several years, she acted as the "Community Prosecutor" working directly in the community and in partnership with educators, community based organization, neighborhood associations, law enforcement, and local government to focus on crime prevention and intervention. In that role, she helped bring the nationally acclaimed "Parent Project" to Santa Clara County, a program which focuses on giving parents the tools to change unhealthy and destructive behavior of their adolescents to help keep youth out of the juvenile justice system and strengthen families. Judge Alloggiamento was sworn in as a Superior Court Judge in January 2011. She previously presided over misdemeanors, Drug Treatment Court, Juvenile Justice (including presiding over the Dually Involved Youth who were involved in both juvenile justice and juvenile dependency systems), Mental Health Court (hearing matters related to competency to stand trial as well as cases involving Sexually Violent Predators, Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity, and Mentally Disorder Offender civil commitment cases), and Felony Criminal trials where she heard cases involving homicide, gangs, sexual assaults, and other serious and violent felonies. Her current assignment as of January 2023 is in a Civil Trial Department where she presides over a variety of civil matters including class actions, employment discrimination, and long cause trials involving probate, family law, civil harassment and more.

Judge Alloggiamento has been Chair of the Court Community Outreach Committee since January 2012. The Outreach Committee provides outreach and education regarding a variety of issues related to the justice system and plans programs for students and adults including the Color of Justice, Young Women's Power Lunch, Educators' Day, Read Across America, Law Day, and more. She also serves on numerous other court committees, including the Equality and Social Justice Committee, the Court Strategic Planning Committee, and the New Judicial Officer Bridging Committee. She also serves on local committees such as the SCCOE Power of Democracy Committee and Statewide Committees including the California Judges Association Wellness Committee. Judge Alloggiamento currently serves as a Board Member for the Board of Silicon Valley Urban Debate League. In 2022, she was appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of California to serve on the Judicial Council's Power of Democracy Steering Committee. In 2016, she was recognized as the special honoree at the SCCBA Women's Lawyers' Section Annual Reception Honoring Santa Clara County Women Judges. In 2023, Judge Julia Alloggiamento received the Unsung (S)hero Award at the Women's Leadership and Policy Summit for her contributions to the community through persistence, dedication, and advocacy for equity, justice, peace, and healing.

Hon. L. Michael Clark, Judge of the Superior Court

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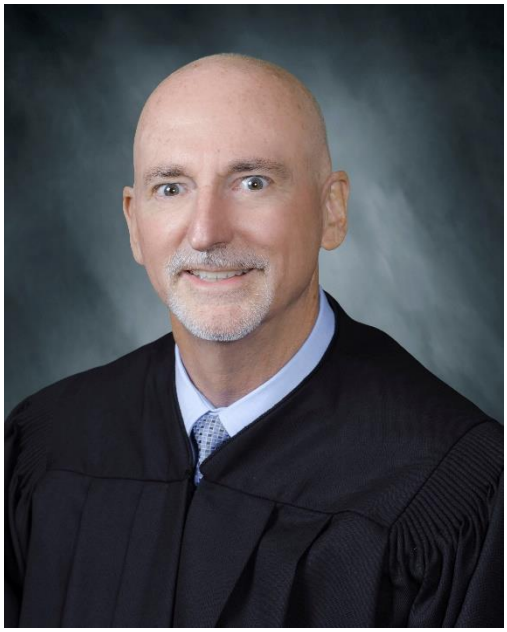

L. Michael Clark is a Superior Court Judge in Santa Clara, California. He was appointed to the bench in 2008. He currently sits in the Juvenile Division where he serves as Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court and Supervising Judge for the Juvenile Justice Division. He previously served as Supervising Judge of the Collaborative Court Division, Administrative Supervising judge for the Criminal Division, Supervising Judge of the Family Division, Assistant Supervising Judge of the Juvenile Dependency Division, Family Court Domestic Violence Judge, Family Court All-Purpose Judge, Truancy Judge, and Drug Treatment Court Judge in Family Court, Juvenile Court, and Criminal Court. He chairs the Court's Collaborative Courts Committee and serves on the Domestic Violence Coordinating Committee, the Domestic Violence Court and Community Partner Committee, the Community Outreach Committee, the Bail and Pretrial Release Committee, and the Equality and Social Justice Committee. Judge Clark conducts education for judges, lawyers and community partners on juvenile law, domestic violence prevention, substance abuse prevention, and trauma-informed courtroom practices. He is a graduate of Santa Clara University Law School, Fuller Theological Seminary and Westmont College.

Sheriff Bob Jonsen, County of Santa Clara

Sheriff Bob Jonsen has been in law enforcement since 1986. Before being elected as the 29th Sheriff of Santa Clara County, he was the Chief of Police for the Palo Alto Police Department (2018–2022). He was also the Chief of Police for the Menlo Park Police Department for five years, leading the organization to receive the IACP/Cisco Community Policing Award.

Most of Sheriff Jonsen's career was with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, where he worked for 27 years. His last command was as the Lancaster Sheriff's Station Captain, serving the City of Lancaster. Before being promoted to Captain, he coordinated the Antelope Valley Crime Fighting Initiative (AVCFI), where he developed crime reduction strategies for a 1370-square-mile region.

He was dedicated to addressing school safety policies and protocols throughout his career in Los Angeles. Bob began working closely with the Los Angeles County Office of Education's "Safe School Center" in 1997 to help reduce school incidents from occurring. In October 2000, he received the "Outstanding Young Californian" award for his work in this area.

Bob was involved in developing and presenting the 1999 POST Youth Violence telecourse, the Los Angeles County Office of Education's Youth Weapons Prevention and Intervention Program, and First Responder training offered through the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center. Bob has presented on institutional (school/workplace) violence throughout the United States and continues to advocate for enhanced school safety protocols.

Catherine Aspiras

Catherine Aspiras, MA, LMFT, has been with Santa Clara County Behavioral Health Services Department Family and Children Division since March 2019.

In her role with Santa Clara County, as Division Director of School-Based Services, Catherine is overseeing the School Linked Services Initiative projects and programs. Programs includes partnerships with 26 of the 32 County public school districts and 8 County Contracted Providers providing school-based outpatient services, Prevention and Early Intervention, Family Engagement and Service Coordination. Projects under the SLS Initiative include the Mental Health Student Services Act, universal health screenings, building partnerships with Managed Care Plans, expanding School-Based Behavioral Health resources in Santa Clara County, and the Wellness Center Grant Program. In addition, Catherine provides oversight of the clinical high risk for psychosis and early psychosis program and project. Catherine Aspiras received her master's degree in Counseling Psychology from the University of San Francisco and her bachelor's degree in Sociology from California State University, East Bay. Catherine enjoys playing golf, flying drones and going on adventures with her son, Carter.

Dane Caldwell-Holden

Dane Caldwell-Holden is celebrating his 32nd year in education this fall. He started his career teaching English in Middle and High School, working with students from all walks of life in Rural, Suburban and Urban settings. Dane spent a year as a middle school administrator before moving into high school administration as an AP of Activities and AP of Instruction. It was when he became the Principal/Manager of Learning Options for San Jose Unified School District that he discovered his passion for alternative programs and desire to serve the students who utilize those pathways to graduation. Dane oversaw six alternative programs at eleven sites in Learning Options and worked there diligently to improve instructional outcomes and showcase their successes. Dane spent eight years as Director of Student Services for SJUSD, lowering their suspension and expulsion rate year over year while leading the effort to embrace PBIS and other positive climate and culture strategies across all forty-one schools. He is beginning his third year at SCCOE as the Director of the Alternative Education Department. His work includes overseeing COE court and community schools and helping to improve educational outcomes for our students. He unites and guides his incredible staff as they work with our students to reengage them in their own education and guide them towards graduation.

Mark Camilleri

Mark has been a leader with the Santa Clara County Office of Education for the past four years. He is the South County Principal for the Alternative Education Department's Court and Community School Programs. Mark has experience as a principal of a comprehensive high school and middle school and is a lifelong teacher and coach. Mark has served as a PBIS Coordinator, Sports coach, Intervention and Restorative Practice Lead, and SST Coordinator. He is a passionate advocate for At Promise Youth and dedicates all his efforts to their success. Mark is a San Jose native whose children attend the excellent schools in Gilroy Unified School District. Mark is a graduate from the University of La Verne with a Master's Degree in Education and a Bachelor's Degree in Movement and Sports Science. Mark is eager to continue working collaboratively with Community partners to provide educational programs for students who need the support he can offer in a small, non-traditional setting.

Dr. Mary Ann Dewan

Dr. Dewan is the Santa Clara County Superintendent of Schools. She is an award-winning educator who has served in education for over 37 years in a variety of leadership roles. Dr. Dewan believes that all students deserve high-quality, equitable, and inclusive education. She leads and serves on committees and boards to promote equity-focused system change at local, county, and state levels.

Jennifer Elenes

Jennifer Elenes currently serves as the Coordinator of Attendance and Engagement in the Youth Health and Wellness Department at the Santa Clara County Office of Education supporting county-wide efforts to improve attendance and engagement and reduce chronic absenteeism. She hosts bi-monthly Attendance Collaboratives with a focus on sharing policy updates, best practices and resources, and collaborating with the county's 31 districts and charter schools on strategies to reduce chronic absenteeism. She also conducts the county's annual training of Attendance Supervisors. In addition, Jennifer is a Restorative Practices practitioner and trainer actively collaborating to build county-wide restorative attendance practices. She is passionate about removing barriers to attendance and meeting students' needs so they can thrive in learning. Before joining the SCCOE, her 24 years in education ranged from high school English and English Language Development teacher and middle school instructional coach to assistant principal at both middle and high school levels and an elementary school principal.

Rachel Fightmaster

Rachel Fightmaster is the Supervising Attorney for the Santa Clara County Self Help Center/Family Law Facilitator's Office (SHC/FLFO). She has worked for the Superior Court in Santa Clara County since October 2016, first as a legal research attorney in the Family Division before transitioning into a staff attorney position at the SHC/FLFO. Before working for the Court, Rachel worked at the Law Foundation of Silicon Valley for over seven years as a staff attorney with Legal Advocates for Children and Youth (LACY). At LACY, Rachel represented dependent youth, minors in probate guardianships, and both children and teen parents in family court. She also handled special education and school discipline cases, and managed several projects including a clinic for transition aged foster youth and the victims of crime and commercially sexually exploited children caseloads. Rachel was admitted to the California bar in December 2008; she earned her JD from Boston University School of Law and has a BA in English from Santa Clara University.

Gloria Maturino

Gloria Maturino currently serves as the Director of the Parent Project program within the County of Santa Clara, District Attorney's Office. Since 2008, this program has consistently achieved success in our county, thanks to the collective dedication of individuals committed to finding solutions for the at-risk youth. This achievement owes much to the vision and compassion of Judge Alloggiamento, who pioneered the integration of this program into the DA's office. The Parent Project class is purposefully structured to assist families in addressing the challenging behaviors exhibited by strong-willed youth who, if not guided right, might find themselves entangled in criminal activities and facing the judicial system. Over the course of 10 weeks, this program equips parents with straightforward actions, plans, tools, resources, activities, and opportunities for sharing and receiving support. The program is proudly presented by a dedicated team of professionals. Our trained facilitators hail from diverse backgrounds, including law enforcement officers, educators, counselors, social workers, and others, all accredited by the National Parent Project program. Together, we collectively make a profoundly positive impact on thousands of families within our community. The Parent Project program is one of its kind in the Nation.

Dr. Tammy McCoy-Arballo

Dr. Tammy McCoy-Arballo is a licensed clinical forensic psychologist who specializes in treating first responders, front-line workers, victim advocates, educators, and healthcare workers. She has responded to 10 mass violence events in her career, including those at the Gilroy Garlic Festival and Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) as well as two school shootings. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she provided services to healthcare workers, public health employees and their families. She has responded to numerous disasters including the Camp Fire, in Paradise, CA, the largest fire in state history.

Dr. McCoy-Arballo is joining CEO as the County's first Clinical Director of Trauma Recovery. This is a new position and one that will help to develop and shape the County's mass victimization and critical incident care protocol. Given her extensive clinical and field experience, Dr. McCoy-Arballo will also be called on to assist victims, community members, and first responders in the wake of a critical incident. She is an EMDR-certificated therapist who holds a Diplomate in Police Psychology from the Society for Police and Criminal Psychology. Dr. McCoy-Arballo is a native New Yorker who loves disco music and roots for the New York Jets. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her husband, their two adult sons, and daughter in law.

Marisa McKeown

Marisa McKeown is a Supervising Deputy District Attorney and has been with the DA's office since 2006. During her years at the DA's office she was a prolific trial attorney, and supervised Central and General Felonies before she was chosen to create and lead the office's Crime Strategies Unit in 2016. The Crime Strategies Unit is an Intelligence-Led Prosecution Unit and leads large-scale investigative projects with the County's police agencies. In 2022 this team was entrusted to form and lead a new Gun Violence Task Force. Within that role, Ms. McKeown oversees a team of prosecutors, crime analysts and investigators working to address gun violence on multiple fronts. Her team has handled some of the most sensitive gun investigations and prosecutions, including responding to mass shooting events, prosecuting prolific gun offenders, apprehending repeat shooters and disarming gun traffickers. Her team is the recipient of a Federal Grant to run a Crime Gun Intelligence Center, and a State Grant to disarm Prohibited Restrained Persons. During her time at CSU she has spoken across the country about intelligence-led prosecution and gun violence response. In particular, she has trained hundreds of police and prosecutors about gun violence restraining orders, gun-related intelligence, and ballistic imaging for all seized firearms. She has been recognized and awarded by multiple Law Enforcement Agencies for her work as a Law Enforcement Liaison.

Jesus Sanchez

Jesus Sanchez is the Supervising Probation Officer for the Education Services Unit in Santa Clara County. He has been a Probation Officer in the Juvenile Division for approximately 21 years. In his time as a Probation Officer, he has been exposed to different assignments across the Juvenile Division. He was a Community Coordinator for the Restorative Justice Program, worked in the Intake and Investigation Unit, supervised youth in the community, served as a Court Officer in Juvenile Court proceedings, and was the supervisor of the Screening Unit. Presently, he is assigned to the Education Services Unit where his role is to support his staff who serve as educational advocates and liaisons for Justice involved students.

Eugene D. Santillan

Eugene D. Santillan has spent the last twenty years serving at-promise youth as a teacher and school administrator. Born and raised in the East Bay, he comes from a family of public servants. He received his B.A. from UC Santa Cruz studying the history, sociology and class politics of America and received his master's in education from National University. This is his fifth year with the Santa Clara County Office of Education. He serves as the Principal of Osborne School at Juvenile Hall, Sunol Community School for expelled youth, SCCOE's Independent Studies program and, the first of its kind in the country, has a high school diploma program inside the Santa Clara County's Office of Diversion and Reentry for adults. He is a loving and proud husband and father and lives with his family in San Leandro.

Olivia Santillán

Olivia Santillán has been in education for 27 years as a high school history-social science educator, assistant principal and county coordinator for history-social science and civic engagement at the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE). Olivia now works as a Director Executive Services and Community Engagement at SCCOE. She is a Doctoral candidate in the Educational Leadership for Social Justice Program at California State University East Bay in Hayward and her research is centered on Family Engagement for Immigrant-Origin Families.

Alisha B. Schoen

Alisha Schoen graduated from UCLA in 2005, after which she attended Stanford Law School, graduating in 2009. Alisha has experience in both the private and international sectors: she practiced civil defense work for two years before working for the Office of the Prosecutor at the International Criminal Court in the Hague. Alisha has been a deputy district attorney at the Santa Clara District Attorney's Office since 2012. She has served the office on its Misdemeanor, North County, Law and Motions, Juvenile Crimes, and Community Prosecution Units. She is currently the Truancy Abatement Team Lead. In that role, she spearheaded the creation of California's first truancy collaborative court. She is also a member of the California Department of Education's State School Attendance Review Board and the Chair of the California District Attorney's Association Truancy Workgroup Committee.

Event Photos

Hon. Julia Alloggiamento,
Chair of the Court's Community Outreach Committee

Educator

Jesus Sanchez, Supervising Probation Officer, Educational Services Unit, County of Santa Clara Probation Department
Jennifer Elenes, Attendance & Engagement Coordinator, Santa Clara County Office of Education
Gloria Maturino, Director - Parent Project, District Attorney's Office
Rachel Fightmaster, Self Help Center Supervising Attorney, Superior Court
Olivia Santillán, Director, Executive Services and Community Engagement, Santa Clara County Office of Education

Judge L. Michael Clark, Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Division
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Catherine Aspiras, LMFT, Division Director, School-Based Services, County of Santa Clara Behavioral Health Services
Marisa McKeown, Supervising Deputy District Attorney, Santa Clara County

Gloria Maturino, Director - Parent Project, District Attorney's Office

Educators

Educator and Dane Caldwell-Holden, Director of Alternative Education for Santa Clara County

Alisha Schoen, Deputy District Attorney, District Attorney's Office