Superior Court of California
County of Santa Clara

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Santa Clara County Celebrates Constitution Month: A Statewide Initiative by California's Chief Justice Patricia Guerrero

SAN JOSÉ, California (September 18, 2023): For more than a decade, as students across the County of Santa Clara prepared to return to school, the Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara has worked diligently with educators, schools and the Santa Clara Office of Education to ensure a robust celebration for Constitution Day, recognized on September 17th. Due to last year's overwhelming response, the Court expanded civic engagement efforts from one day, to providing educational presentations throughout the entire month of September, labelling it "Constitution Month." Chief Justice Patricia Guerrero's Power of Democracy Civic Learning Initiative, the County of Santa Clara Court collaborated with justice partners, schools, and civic learning advocates to deepen the understanding and appreciation of our nation's founding document among California's youth.

"Judges and attorneys serve an important role in educating our community about the third branch of government and in encouraging civic engagement," said Hon. Julia Alloggiamento, Chair of the Santa Clara County Court's Community Outreach Committee. "It is exciting to collaborate statewide on initiatives like the *Power of Democracy* to create civic learning opportunities for students. Expanding our local program this year to reach nearly 3,000 fifth graders, including several bilingual presentations, was an enormous step to further inform, inspire and empower our next generation of engaged citizens."

Since 2014, the Power of Democracy initiative has forged connections between the judicial branch, educators, and school administrators, with the overarching goal of promoting civic learning. This vital initiative's advisory body includes esteemed judges from both state and federal courts, members of the State Bar, representatives from the California Department of Education, and experts in civics curriculum development. With regard to Chief Justice Patricia Guerrero's leadership and in collaboration with the statewide effort, the Court's Community Outreach Committee recognizes the value of accommodating the numerous activities planned to enhance civic education in California and meeting the requests for engagement from the community.

The Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara's judicial officers and justice partners will visit more than 50 K-12 classrooms in Santa Clara County. During these visits, judges will engage nearly 3,000 students in interactive lessons about the Constitution, the judicial branch, and the crucial role of the courts in our society.

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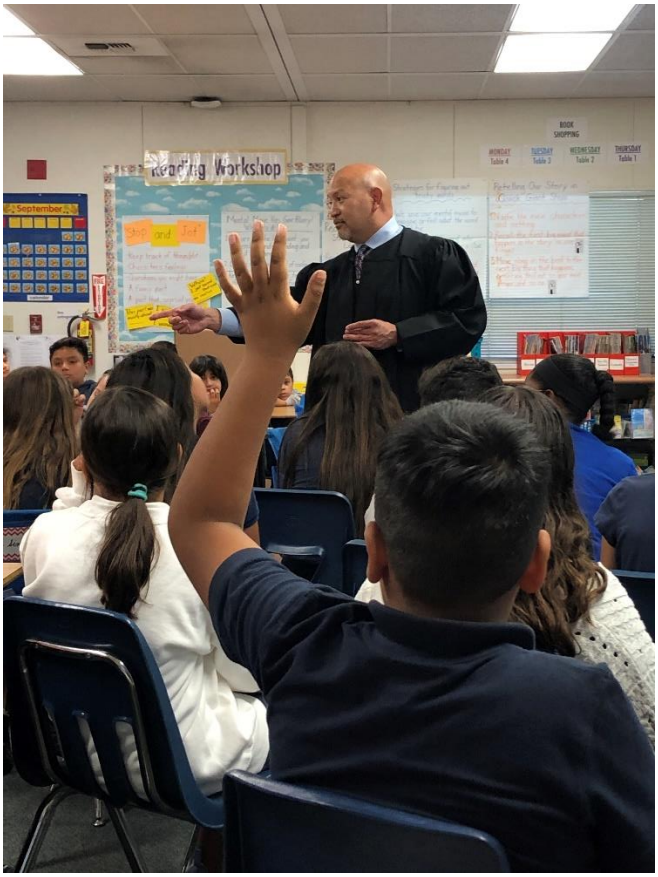
About the Judicial Council of California:

The Judicial Council of California is the policymaking body for the California court system, including the Supreme Court of California. The council adopts rules for court administration, practice, and procedure, and it annually collects and publishes various court statistics. The council also conducts extensive education and training programs for judges and court staff. Learn more: www.courts.ca.gov



Hon. Johnny Gogo providing a Constitution Day presentation to a 5th Grade class.

Hon. Roberta Hayashi providing a civic engagement lesson on the Constitution.