Superior Court of California
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Justice Professionals Share Personal Journeys and Career Insights with Silicon Valley Career Technical Education Students

SAN JOSÉ, Calif. (March 6, 2026): The Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara joined justice system partners at the end of February, for a special career exploration event at Silicon Valley Career Technical Education (SVCTE) Center, connecting students with professionals working across the legal system.

As part of Career Technical Education Month, observed each February, the event was organized to provide SVCTE students with a firsthand look at career pathways within the justice system and an opportunity to engage directly with professionals about their personal and professional journeys.

Ms. Pat Freitas, Counseling Program Coordinator remarked, "We are so grateful to Judge Alloggiamento and her team for their generosity in joining our *Careers in Justice* panel at SVCTE. Their insights and real-world experiences gave our students an inspiring look into careers in the justice system while supporting our district's commitment to strong community partnerships. Collaborations like this bring authentic career technical learning to life and help prepare our students for a future of excellence and service to their communities—making this a highlight for our students during CTE Celebration Month."

Panel participants included:

- **The Honorable Julia Alloggiamento**, Judge, Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara and Chair of the Court's Community Outreach Committee
- **Miguel Rodriguez**, Assistant Public Defender, Santa Clara County Public Defender's Office
- **Melissa Castillo**, Deputy District Attorney
- **Jesus Sanchez**, Supervising Probation Officer

Together, the panelists shared insights about their roles within the justice system, the educational pathways that led them to their careers, and the importance of perseverance and community awareness in their work.

Judge Alloggiamento reflected on the importance of compassion, fairness, and community awareness in judicial service. She also discussed the challenges she faced as a young female judge and the stereotypes that can exist within professional environments.

“The world around us treats judges differently,” Judge Alloggiamento told students. “I go to work every day because my job is justice and fairness. Judges need to understand what is happening in the community.”

Panelists concluded the discussion by sharing the advice they would give their younger selves—encouraging students to trust their instincts, pursue internships, and remain confident in their abilities.

The event reflects the Court’s continued commitment to civic engagement and youth outreach through its Community Outreach Committee. By partnering with educational institutions such as SVCTE, the Court and its justice system partners aim to inspire the next generation of public servants and help students better understand the role of the justice system in their communities.

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Figure 1- Justice system professionals participate in a panel discussion with students at Silicon Valley Career Technical Education (SVCTE), sharing insights about careers in the legal field and their personal pathways into public service during a special Career Technical Education Month event.

Alt Text:

Students seated in a large auditorium at Silicon Valley Career Technical Education (SVCTE) listen to a panel of four justice system professionals seated at a long table at the front of the room. A projection screen and U.S. and California flags are visible behind the panel, while rows of students in red theater-style seats face the speakers during the career pathways discussion.

Figure 2- Students from Silicon Valley Career Technical Education (SVCTE) pose with justice system professionals following the "Careers in Justice" panel held in recognition of Career Technical Education Month on February 24, 2026.

Alt Text:

A large group of SVCTE students stand together with four justice system professionals at the front of a classroom following a "Careers in Justice Panel." A presentation slide behind them displays the SVCTE logo, the Career Technical Education Month emblem, and the event title with the date February 24, 2026. The group poses for a photo in front of a podium and projection screen.

Figure 3- Assistant Public Defender Miguel Rodriguez speaks with an SVCTE student following the Careers in Justice panel, continuing the conversation about pathways into the legal profession.

Alt Text:

A justice professional in a suit speaks with a student standing beside a conference table in an auditorium at Silicon Valley Career Technical Education (SVCTE). The student listens while holding a small item in her hands as the two engage in conversation following the Careers in Justice panel discussion. Rows of red auditorium seats and a presentation screen are visible in the background.

Figure 4- Jesus Sanchez, Supervising Probation Officer poses with SVCTE students following the Careers in Justice panel, highlighting student interest in careers in law and public service.

Alt Text:

Jesus Sanchez, Supervising Probation Officer stands with four SVCTE students for a group photo beside an American flag inside the SVCTE campus. The students wear school attire and public safety program uniforms following the Careers in Justice panel discussion.