

Superior Court of California County of Santa Clara

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Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara Launches 2026 Law Day Contest: “Rule of Law and the American Dream”

SAN JOSÉ, Calif. (February 27, 2026): The Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara is proud to announce the launch of its [2026 Law Day Contest](#), titled “*Rule of Law and the American Dream*.” As the nation prepares to celebrate its 250th anniversary this July, the Court is actively engaging middle and high school students throughout Santa Clara County to reflect on the foundational principles that shape our democracy.

As part of the Court’s outreach efforts, Commissioner Johanna Thai Van Dat visited Westmont High School on Tuesday, February 24, where she addressed approximately 30 eleventh and twelfth grade students in Mr. Buran’s Law class.

During her visit, Commissioner Thai Van Dat spoke about the importance of the rule of law, the role of the judiciary, and how students can meaningfully engage in civic life. She also introduced the Law Day video contest and encouraged students to use their creativity to explore how the rule of law supports the American Dream.

“The rule of law remains the promise at the heart of the American Dream,” said Commissioner Thai Van Dat. “Regardless of who you are, where you come from, justice stands above power and opportunity stands above privilege. You are our future leaders; use your voice and your creativity to continue upholding the ideals of our democracy.”

The Law Day Contest invites students to create and submit original video entries reflecting on the 2026 theme. Through this initiative, the Court aims to foster a deeper understanding of how laws protect individual rights, promote fairness, and ensure equal access to justice.

Law Day, celebrated on May 1, provides an opportunity to educate young people about the legal system and inspire civic participation. The Santa Clara County Superior Court’s outreach efforts include classroom visits, educational presentations, and direct engagement with students and educators.

By bringing members of the judiciary into local schools, the Court seeks to demystify the legal process and reinforce that the justice system belongs to the community it serves. Students and educators interested in learning more about the Law Day Contest, including submission guidelines and deadlines, may visit the Court’s [website](#).



An inspiring classroom filled with bright future leaders as Westmont High School law class students connect with Commissioner Thai Van Dat during Law Day contest presentation.

Alt text: Wide classroom photo showing Commissioner Thai Van Dat speaking at the front of a Westmont High School law class while students sit at desks with laptops facing a projector screen. Mr. Buran, the teacher, is seated at his desk on the left side of the room. The screen displays a Law Day video contest slide, and the classroom walls are covered with posters, photos, and other classroom materials.