

Superior Court of California County of Santa Clara

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Law Day 2021: Advancing The Rule Of Law, Now *The Superior Court Celebrates Law Day with juvenile justice youth in Santa Clara County*

Every year, the Santa Clara County Superior Court's Community Outreach Committee coordinates a poster contest and outreach effort for juvenile justice-involved youth in coordination with Law Day. Law Day is a nationally recognized date, May 1, dedicated to celebrating the role of law in our society and cultivating a deeper understanding of the legal profession. Due to concerns brought on by the pandemic, the Superior Court's Law Day outreach efforts were moved to the summer of 2021.

The Law Day theme of 2021, "Advancing the Rule of Law, Now," serves as a fitting reminder of the importance of our shared responsibility to promote the rule of law, defend liberty, and pursue justice. Through their artistic skills, students expressed themselves in a manner that speaks truth to their own life experiences. The winning submission, as determined by the Court's Community Outreach Committee, visually tied together a striking depiction of the United States in between symbols, words, and the statement "you must be the change you wish to see in the world." In June, several of the students-artists temporarily housed at the Juvenile Hall met with Judge Julia Alloggiamento to discuss their work and the inspiration behind their art.

Hon. Julia Alloggiamento, Chair of the Court Community Outreach Committee, said, "While the artwork is incredible, and the words the students conveyed on their posters so meaningful, the greatest part of the Poster Contest was hearing directly from the youth about their thoughts and what inspired their art. It is important that our youth have the opportunity to really consider what justice means to them and how they play an important part in it. I have no doubt that they *will* 'be the change'".

Deserie Escobar, Santa Clara County Deputy Probation Officer, stated, "I am grateful for the Santa Clara County Superior Court's Community Outreach Committee for including our youth. Often, the youth we work with feel they are easily dismissed if they have had any part of the juvenile justice system. I admire the bravery of the youth that participated in this event. The depth of their lived experience and rawness of how they view the world is directly seen in the way they express themselves through their art."

The Court wants to thank Deserie Escobar, Cayla Clapham, Antonio Walker, and everyone at the Santa Clara County Probation Department who helped make this event happen. Our Court is especially grateful to each and everyone one of the students who participated in this year's contest.

Winning Submission

