



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 22, 2020

Juvenile Justice Youth Win Law Day Poster Contest with Powerful Image of Single Fist

Every year, the Santa Clara County Superior Court's Community Outreach Committee coordinates a Law Day poster contest for students at the William F. James Ranch as part of a broader outreach effort for 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 the pandemic and ensuing health concerns, the Court was forced to postpone its Law Day outreach efforts to the summer. While the 2020 Law Day theme focuses on voting and the 19th Amendment, the current important national discourse on dismantling racism caused the Court to adjust its theme to make it more topical and relevant to the youth. Students in the juvenile justice system at the Ranch were instead asked to express themselves through art on the topic of "Black Lives Matter." The seven submissions received by the Court are a visual representation of important issues as voiced by youth in our County. (see attached pages)

Judge Julia Alloggiamento, Chair of the Court Community Outreach Committee and Chris Bijoux, Director of the Dually Involved Youth, met with the participants at the ranch to announce the winners and hear from the youth on the topic. "The power in one fist speaks volumes," said Mr. Bijoux, referring to the winning poster. "While the artwork is incredible, hearing from the youth on what this contest meant to them was inspirational," said Judge Alloggiamento. The youth, who often worked in groups to create the posters, expressed gratitude in having a platform to reflect on and discuss the important issues of race, discrimination, equality, and transformation that may not have otherwise been explicitly raised in that setting. "As a judge in Juvenile Justice, it is wonderful to see the youth find their voice, express themselves, and engage in positive discussions of hope, change, and justice," said Judge Alloggiamento.

Sal Heredia, Supervising Probation Counselor at the William F. James Ranch, noted. "Our kids have tremendous talents! It is always amazing to see their reactions to completing projects, especially if it is something they believe in and care about. The sense of accomplishment goes far beyond participating in the contest. It reminds them of the 'good' inside each one of them and allows them to practice non-violent ways of voicing their feelings and thoughts."

The Court wants to thank Sal Heredia, Supervising Probation Counselor, and everyone at the William F. James Ranch 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.

Please see attached pages for student poster submissions.

Winning Submission







