

Superior Court of California
County of Santa Clara



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County of Santa Clara Court Celebrates Fred Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitution

SAN JOSÉ, Calif. (January 30, 2023): Today the Equality and Social Justice Committee hosted an informal celebration for Court staff, uplifting the lives and legacies of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Fred Korematsu. The Fred Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitution is celebrated on January 30 in California to commemorate the birthday of Fred Korematsu, a Japanese-American civil rights activist best known for resisting the internment of Japanese Americans (*Korematsu v. US*). Because this day recognizes American civil liberties and rights under the Constitution of the United States, the Equality and Social Justice Committee devised an event that celebrates two men from different backgrounds who held America accountable to the constitution.

“The Fred Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitution is the first day in U.S. history named after an Asian American. On January 16 the nation recognized the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, the first and only holiday in U.S. history named after an African American,” said Hon. Andrea Flint, Chair of the Equality and Social Justice Committee. “It is imperative that we commemorate the lives of advocates for mankind so others are inspired to make sacrifices in their daily lives. The life work of Dr. King and Mr. Korematsu encourage all who hear their stories to reflect and peacefully take action on civil rights issues within their neighborhoods and across the globe.”

A centerpiece of this hybrid celebration held over the lunch hour consisted of a [tributary montage of judicial officers and administrators sharing briefly how they are inspired by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Fred T. Korematsu](#). In addition, excerpts from documentaries were shown to provide historical context for the two civil-rights icons who changed the landscape of justice for all Americans.

“Along with today’s commemoration, I particularly want to recognize the tireless exertions and passionate concern of the dedicated individuals in the Court – staff, administrators and judges, who take steps every day in the goal of justice that we share,” stated Presiding Judge, Beth McGowen. “As Dr. King once said, ‘Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals.’”

The Equality and Social Justice Committee of the Santa Clara County Superior Court was founded in 2020 as part of the commitment of the Court and its judges to provide equal justice for all persons who come to the Superior Court of the County of Santa Clara.

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