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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LOS ANGELES SUPERIOR COURT TO INCREASE CIVICS AWARENESS WITH NEW JUDGES IN THE COMMUNITY PROGRAM

Starting May 1, Judges and Commissioners Will Be Available to Give Presentations on Civics and Topics Related to the Law Countywide for Groups and Organizations Such As Senior Citizen Centers, Service Clubs, Bar Associations and More

The Los Angeles Superior Court will launch its new **Judges in the Community** program in conjunction with **Law Day on May 1** with two presentations in downtown Los Angeles, Presiding Judge Samantha P. Jessner announced today. The Judges in the Community program will provide, upon request, free civics and law-related presentations countywide for groups and organizations such as senior citizen centers, service clubs, bar associations, law schools, colleges and universities, libraries and religious/faith groups.

"Our democracy depends on active, informed and engaged citizens," Presiding Judge Jessner said. "Yet one of the least understood parts of our democracy is the judicial branch. Members of the Los Angeles County judiciary have long participated in many community events to increase the public's understanding of the court system and the ways in which the Court promotes equal access to justice. This new program manifests our Court's dedication to improving our democracy by ensuring that individuals in our community have a better understanding of the Los Angeles Superior Court, how to

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Judges in the Community 2-2-2-2

navigate the court system, and the importance of the preservation of judicial independence to preserving the freedoms that are essential to our democracy.”

On May 1, judges will provide inaugural Judges in the Community presentations at the:

- **Angelus Plaza Senior Activity Center**, 255 S. Hill St., Los Angeles, the largest subsidized community for low-income seniors in the U.S. Two presentations will be held:
 - 10:30 a.m. – This session will be offered in English, Spanish and Korean.
 - 1:30 p.m. – This session will be offered in English and Chinese.
- **Los Angeles Public Library Central Building**, Meeting Room A, 630 W. 5th St., Los Angeles, at noon.

Judicial officers will answer questions such as, “How do I understand and navigate the jury summons I received?” and “How do you become a judge?” Attendees will participate in interactive exercises that illustrate a judge’s role in interpreting laws in different settings.

The launch of the Judges in the Community program aligns with the 2023 Law Day theme, “Cornerstones of Democracy: Civics, Civility, and Collaboration.” Law Day is held on May 1 annually across the nation to celebrate the role of law in society and to build a deeper understanding of the legal profession.

The Court’s existing community outreach programs have focused on youth and students in public schools, with judges and commissioners regularly participating in Teen Court, Power Lunches, and Judges in the Classroom, among other events. The Judges in the Community program is designed for adults, with judicial officers available for in-person and remote sessions throughout the county.

Interested groups can request appearances through the Court’s public website at this link: https://www.lacourt.org/generalinfo/communityoutreach/GI_CO028.aspx.

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