

April 4, 2019

LASC HOSTS ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YOUNG WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



Judge Yolanda Orozco speaks to high school students during the Los Angeles Superior Court's third Young Women's Leadership Conference on March 14 in downtown Los Angeles.

On March 14, the Los Angeles Superior Court hosted its third Young Women's Leadership Conference. The half-day event was attended by 148 middle and high school students throughout Los Angeles County. Thirty-one schools from across Los Angeles County participated, making it the largest leadership conference to date.

"These conferences have been a great success," said Assistant Presiding Judge Eric C. Taylor. "I enjoy attending because I get to meet our future leaders." Addressing the students, Judge Taylor said, "Don't let anyone tell you that you can't do something. Get out there and network, meet people and help each other reach your goals."

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The purpose of the conference is to encourage young women to consider a career in the justice system by exposing them to professional women who have reached the very apex of their legal careers.

"Great women are going to find other great women," said Judge Nicole Bershon, one of the organizers of the event. "As you've heard several times since you have arrived, networking and meeting people is so important, but remember to help each other as well."



LASC's Young Women's Leadership Conference brought together students throughout Los Angeles County to learn about the legal profession and hopefully consider a career on the bench.

Judge Bershon was honored at the beginning of the event for her work on the program.

"We are thankful for the hard work and dedication Judge Bershon has given to the Young Women's and Young Men's Leadership Conferences," said Judge Yolanda Orozco, co-chair of the conference. "Without her, these programs would not be as successful as they are."

During the invitation-only event, the students heard from a number of distinguished speakers, participated in question and answer sessions with speakers and panelists, and took part in breakout sessions with judicial officers and attorneys. Guest speakers, in order of appearance, included: from the Los Angeles Superior Court - Presiding Judge Kevin C. Brazile, Assistant Presiding Judge Eric C. Taylor, Judge Orozco, and Judge Bershon; Laurie Levenson, professor, Loyola Law School; and L.A. City Councilmember Nury Martinez.

Also, there were two panel discussions: a criminal justice panel moderated by Judge Bershon, and included LAPD Deputy Chief Regina Scott, Acting Alternate Public Defender Erika Anzoátegui, Special Assistant District Attorney Cheryl Newman Gaines, and L.A. County Chief Probation Officer Terri L. McDonald. The second panel was moderated by Judge Beverly Bourne and included Judge Karen Ackerson Gauff, Judge Yvette Verastegui and Judge Jana M. Seng.

"We hope the students walk away from the conference knowing they are not alone, that the judges, lawyers and community leaders they heard from today came from similar circumstances or faced similar challenges on their paths to success," said Judge Bershon.

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