



NEWS RELEASE

**Los Angeles Superior Court
Public Information Office**

Website: www.lasuperiorcourt.org

E-mail Address: PublicInfo@LASuperiorcourt.org

Sept. 17, 2014

L.A. Superior Court Launches Teen Court for Bell Gardens High School

This month, Los Angeles Superior Court Presiding Judge David S. Wesley, California State Assembly member Cristina Garcia and officials from the Montebello Unified School District opened the Bell Gardens High School Teen Court.

Garcia is an alumnus of Bell Gardens High School, which will operate the first Teen Court in the Montebello Unified School District.

“Assembly member Garcia is the first state legislator in Los Angeles County to approach the Court about establishing a Teen Court,” said Wesley. “It was her initiative and the support of educators in the Montebello school district that made establishing a Teen Court at Bell Gardens High School this year’s Teen Court priority,” said Wesley.

Teen Court is an early intervention program that allows eligible juvenile offenders to be questioned, judged and sentenced by a jury of their peers. Currently, there are 24 high-school-based Teen Courts in Los Angeles County.

“I am thankful for Judge Wesley’s commitment -- and to all the judges who volunteer their time--in providing this program,” said Garcia, who added, “I am proud that my hometown, the City of Bell Gardens, has graciously agreed to support this community-wide effort by hosting the monthly Teen Court meetings.”

Teen Court is a collaborative justice effort linking students, teachers, parents, juvenile offenders, police officers, civic leaders, volunteer attorneys, employees of the Los Angeles County Probation Department and the Court staff who encourage juvenile offenders to accept responsibility for their actions and take advantage of an opportunity to avoid the criminal justice system. Additional Teen Court information is available from the LASC Community Relations Office at 213- 974-5422.

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