

Los Angeles Superior Court – Public Information Office

111 N. Hill Street, Room 107, Los Angeles, CA 90012

publicinfo@lacourt.org www.lacourt.org

# NEWS RELEASE



Jan. 24, 2018

## LOS ANGELES SUPERIOR COURT TO RENAME YOUTH OUTREACH PROGRAM TO HONOR LATE JUDGE BEVERLY REID O'CONNELL

The Los Angeles Superior Court (LASC) is pleased to announce the renaming of its Power Lunch youth outreach program to the **JUDGE BEVERLY REID O'CONNELL POWER LUNCH PROGRAM**, in honor of the program's late founder. The dedication will take place on **Friday, Jan. 26, 2018, at noon in Room 222 at the Stanley Mosk Courthouse**, located at 111 N. Hill St. in downtown Los Angeles.

Judge Beverly Reid O'Connell, who was a LASC bench officer from 2005 to 2013, prior to her appointment to the United States District Court for the Central District of California, passed away suddenly in October 2017. It was during her time with LASC, and through her dedication to inspire the youth of today to become tomorrow's leaders, that Judge O'Connell collaborated with the Court's Office of Community Outreach to launch Power Lunch in April 2007, less than two years after Judge O'Connell's appointment to the state court.

The first Power Lunch was hosted at the Stanley Mosk Courthouse for 72 students from Crenshaw High School; six months later, the second Power Lunch brought together 96 students from West Adams Preparatory School. **In the last 10 years, the Court has hosted more than 50 Power Lunches for more than 2,500 high school students.**

As part of an ongoing effort to reach out to diverse groups, Power Lunch provides local high school students—mostly from disadvantaged communities—with civic education, judicial mentorship and exposure to the judicial branch. Students visit courthouses throughout Los Angeles County for lunch with justice system professionals including judicial officers, lawyers, court reporters, interpreters, and members of law enforcement.

**The dedication ceremony on Jan. 26 will be attended by LASC bench officers and students from LAUSD's Narbonne High School, a Power Lunch participant for four years. Distinguished guest speakers will include LASC Presiding Judge Daniel J. Buckley; Assistant Presiding Judge Kevin C. Brazile, Justice Lee Smalley Edmon, California Court of Appeal, Second Appellate District, Division 3; and Judge O'Connell's husband, Dan O'Connell. A student from Narbonne High School will also speak.**

more-more-more

"Few have contributed more to our Court than Judge O'Connell, including after she moved to the federal court," said Presiding Judge Buckley. "She touched us as a colleague, leader, exemplary judge, and teacher. Even when she was with us outside the classroom, she continued to be a teacher; she gave us daily lessons on how to be a better person."

Power Lunch is currently spearheaded by LASC Judges Elaine Lu and Beverly Bourne. "[Judge O'Connell's] enthusiasm and energy were positively contagious," said Judge Lu. "She motivated not only the students, but also all the attorney and judge volunteers. When I stop to think about the thousands of students from the far reaches of our county who have attended Power Lunches, I marvel at Judge O'Connell's foresight and vision in creating this unique program that will inspire generations of lawyers and judges to come. I look forward to many more Power Lunches in the future, knowing that Judge O'Connell's spirit will always be with us."

"The impact of Judge O'Connell's contribution to LASC, especially regarding the Power Lunch program, is immeasurable," Judge Bourne said. "The program exists because she started it, and its success is a testimony to her compassion for youth, her passion for the law and her desire to help others. Power Lunch is a great program created by a great judge."

Power Lunch is the product of the Court's collaboration with bar associations, including Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County Bar Association Barristers, Mexican American Bar Association, Langston Bar Association, South Asian Bar Association, and the American Board of Trial Lawyers. The program has featured presentations by community leaders such as former Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, District Attorney Jackie Lacey, City Attorney Mike Feuer, Inglewood Mayor James T. Butts Jr., State Senator Holly Mitchell, Supervisor Hilda Solis, Pasadena Police Chief Phillip K. Sanchez, and Los Angeles County Sheriff Jim McDonnell.

Lunch will be provided to participants through grant funding.

- 
- WHO:** LASC judicial officers and justice partners; Power Lunch participants from Narbonne High School
- WHAT:** Dedication ceremony; additionally, student participants will hear from distinguished speakers, participate in an interactive game of "Legal Jeopardy" and take part in breakout sessions with judicial officers and attorneys.
- WHEN:** Friday, Jan. 26, 2018; Noon.
- WHERE:** Stanley Mosk Courthouse, 111 N. Hill St., Los Angeles, 90012; Presiding Judge's Courtroom, Room 222.

**Please notify the Court's Public Information Office at (213) 830-0815 if you plan to attend or require further information.**

-----

Power Lunch is another of LASC's creative and dynamic community outreach programs which include Teen Court, SHADES (Stop Hate and Delinquency by Empowering Students), Court-Clergy Conference, Teachers Courthouse Seminar, etc. Additional information about LASC's community outreach efforts can be found at the Court's website at [lacourt.org](http://lacourt.org).