



NEWS RELEASE

**Los Angeles Superior Court
Public Information Office**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LASC'S TEEN COURT PROGRAM RECEIVES 2016 STATE BAR EDUCATION PIPELINE AWARD

The Los Angeles Superior Court's (LASC) Teen Court program has been named the 2016 recipient of the California State Bar Education Pipeline Award.

Established by the State Bar's Board of Trustees in 2008, the Education Pipeline Award recognizes the efforts of law-related educational programs that train and support students who are interested in the judicial system and careers in the law.

Teen Court is an alternative early-intervention program that allows eligible juvenile offenders to be questioned, judged and sentenced by a jury of their peers. The program incorporates students, teachers, parents, juvenile offenders, police officers, civic leaders, volunteer attorneys, the Los Angeles County Probation Department, and the Court in a collaborative justice effort to reduce recidivism and encourage juvenile offenders to accept responsibility for their actions and take advantage of an opportunity to avoid the criminal justice system.

"I am proud to say that the Los Angeles Superior Court has supported our Teen Court program as it has grown for more than 24 years," said Judge David S. Wesley, LASC Teen Court judge and co-founder of the program. "The dedication of our Judges and the passion they have to further social justice, and provide early intervention for troubled youth, have contributed greatly to a new way of thinking about the juvenile justice system. We are thankful for this award, and I am sure that this wonderful recognition of their work will encourage them to continue with great enthusiasm and commitment."

Students have the opportunity to participate in Teen Court between their freshman and senior years in high school and can continue the program throughout their time in high school.

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Currently, more than 20,000 students, 60 judicial officers, and 50 volunteer attorneys and law school students participate in 38 active high-school-based Teen Courts throughout Los Angeles County.

“The Los Angeles Superior Court is extremely proud of its Teen Court program and grateful for the foundational and ongoing leadership provided by former Presiding Judge David S. Wesley in shaping this program,” said LASC Presiding Judge Carolyn B. Kuhl. “This program is a vehicle for the judges of our Court to educate young citizens about the importance of the judiciary in upholding the rule of law. It is also an opportunity to inspire a diverse group of potential future lawyers and judges.”

Given the wide range of diversity in Los Angeles and the spread of Teen Court locations all over the county, the program has been able to reach communities with high concentrations of minorities and students of color, inspiring them to pursue a career in the legal field.

The Education Pipeline Award will be presented to LASC on Oct. 1, 2016, at the 15th Anniversary Diversity Awards Reception in San Diego, Calif.

For more information about LASC’s Teen Court program, visit the Community Outreach section of the Court’s website at lacourt.org or call the Court’s Public Information Office at (213) 830-0815.

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