



Superior Court of California

COUNTY OF VENTURA
Hall of Justice
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Ventura, CA 93009

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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JUROR APPRECIATION WEEK CELEBRATING JURORS DURING JURY SERVICE

Ventura, Calif.—The Superior Court of Ventura County celebrates the 16th anniversary of Juror Appreciation Week, May 13 to 17. The second full week in May was identified for juror appreciation in 1998 by a special resolution of the California Legislature recognizing the important contributions of citizens in devoting their time and effort to make the cherished right of trial by jury a reality. Juror Appreciation Week is now an annual event in courts throughout the state.

The right to trial by a jury of one's peers lies at the heart of our justice system and is a cornerstone of our nation's democratic ideals. The theme of this year's Juror Appreciation Week is "Jurors, You Make it Work!"

There have been numerous changes to jury service in California over the last 16 years. Two notable improvements are the one-day or one-trial system that makes jury service more manageable, and plain-language jury instructions that makes jury service more understandable.

More than 500,000 Californians serve on juries each year, according to the state Judicial Council. Jury duty is an essential part of our judicial system. The Superior Court of Ventura County recognizes the sacrifices our citizens make in performing their jury service.

"On behalf of all of the judges and the entire court staff, we thank all our jurors for their valuable time and service in our courtrooms. Jury service is much more than an obligation; it is an opportunity and fundamental right that all jurors enjoy to participate as integral members of our justice system. We in the courts strive to ensure that all citizens have access to justice, a goal which cannot be attained without the service of all jurors who appear in our courts to participate in their civic responsibility. We hope that everyone in the community values all the rights which distinguish our justice system from all others, including the critical right to a jury trial" said Hon. Brian J. Back, Presiding Judge.