



Superior Court of California, County of Alameda  
René C. Davidson Alameda County Courthouse  
1225 Fallon Street  
Oakland, California 94612

**For Immediate Release**

**May 12, 2004**

---

## ***Alameda County Courts Celebrate Law Day***

Contact: James Brighton, Bureau Chief, Planning, Research and Court Services,  
Superior Court of California, County of Alameda at (510) 272-5093

Alameda County celebrated National Law Day beginning May 3, 2004, culminating Thursday May 6, in a luncheon hosted jointly by the Court and the Oakland Rotary Club. Senior Federal District Court Judge Thelton Henderson was keynote speaker, Judge Robert Fairwell was presented the Allen E. Broussard Award for Outstanding Humanitarianism by the Alameda County Bar Association, and Judge Leo Dorado honored Alameda County high school mock trial participants and other students from Alameda County schools (McClymonds High School and Bishop O'Dowd High School). That morning, Presiding Judge Barbara Miller hosted an informal breakfast in her courtroom in honor of Law Day. Judges, Rotary members, bench-bar speaker's bureau participants, and students and teachers from local schools attended in celebration of this year's National Law Day theme: To Win Equality by Law: *Brown v. Board of Education* at 50.

Earlier in the week, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors presented Judge Miller with a proclamation in honor of Law Day. Judge Miller spoke briefly about the scheduled Law Day events and the importance of the 2004 Law Day theme commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the landmark Supreme Court case of *Brown vs. Board of Education*. Copies of the proclamation are displayed in each courthouse in Alameda County and on the court's website: <http://www.acgov.org/courts/>

In addition to these activities, court locations throughout Alameda County hosted local middle and high schools over the course of the week, giving students court tours as well as question and answer sessions with District Attorneys, Public Defenders, Judges, and Court staff. Since January 2004 court tours have been given to 13 participating schools all over the county, helping to introduce our judicial system to over 400 students.

Finally, as part of the court's community outreach program, this year our Speaker Outreach Coordinator, Nancy Vue, sent judges and attorneys to over 37 classrooms in schools throughout Alameda County. The Bench-Bar Speaker Outreach Program is ongoing, so far over 1200 students have been reached and 75 speakers have volunteered to be a part of the program.

The Bench-Bar Speaker Outreach Program and other Law Day activities were a result of the Court's Community Focused Court Strategic Plan calling for increased education and dissemination of information to the public. The Strategic Plan is the result of months of community-court collaboration led by Superior Court Judge Gordon Baranco.

These activities were the result of approximately eight months of planning by the Law Day Committee, made up of members of the Court, the Alameda County Bar Association, the Alameda County Law Library and the Alameda County Office of Education. The committee was co-chaired by Judge Leo Dorado, and Deputy District Attorney Kim Hunter. Members of the committee include, Presiding Judge Barbara Miller, Law Library Director Cossette Sun, Family Law Facilitator Candace Goldman, Thomas McDonnell Esq., Susan Jeffries Esq., Paula Bruce from the Donald P. McCullum Youth Court, James McWilliams Esq., Spencer Strellis Esq., Dr. Rachelle DiStefano from the Alameda County Office of Education, and court staff including Planning and Research Bureau Chief James Brighton, Speaker Outreach Coordinator Nancy Vue, and Judicial Administration Fellow Armilla Staley.