

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
County of Marin



Real DUI Court in Schools Goes to Tomales High School

(For immediate release: March 1, 2013)

On Thursday, March 14, the auditorium at Tomales High School in West Marin will become an official courtroom of the Marin County Superior Court. The entire student body will be in attendance for a real DUI trial. On the stage, the courtroom will be set up and Marin County Superior Court Judge Mark A. Talamantes will preside over the criminal proceedings.

As part of the Court's Real DUI Court in Schools Program, Tomales students will observe first-hand the legal and financial consequences of drinking and driving. In the course of the trial and from expert witnesses, they will learn the facts about blood alcohol levels, sobriety testing, and the effects of drinking on the body. They will learn about the arrest, detention, and public trial of the defendant. And, if the defendant is convicted, they will be present to hear the imposition of fines, penalties and other consequences.

Following the trial, Judge Talamantes will speak briefly and then facilitate a question and answer period. Students can direct questions to any participants in the trial, including the judge, defendant, attorneys, witnesses, court staff, and law enforcement officers. By stimulating discussions about the trial itself and the risks of driving while intoxicated, the program hopes to give these young people a heightened awareness of their personal responsibility and lead to their making good choices. It will also provide a remarkable civics lesson and opportunity to see the justice system at work.

Because of the social pressures all young Marin residents face, they need to be informed of the long-term hazards of drinking and driving in order to make good decisions, which is what this program tries to do. Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for 15 to 19 year olds – the primary collision factor being alcohol. Underage drinking statistics in Marin County demonstrate that this is a significant and shared community problem. The County has seen too often the loss of life and severe injuries which can result from teen drinking and driving. The goal of the Real DUI Court in Schools Program is to prevent a young person from getting behind the wheel impaired or into a car driven by someone who is intoxicated.

The Real DUI Court in Schools Program is a collaborative effort involving the Court and the Marin County Office of Education, local high schools, the District Attorney, the Public Defender, and the Sheriff. Supported by the Court's Real DUI Court in Schools volunteers, the trial at Tomales High School is the program's seventh trial in the last two academic years. Trials have been held at Terra Linda, Novato, San Marin, Sir Francis Drake, and San Rafael High Schools.

For additional information regarding this press release,
please contact Court Administration at (415) 444-7020