

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF MARIN**



Press Release

(For immediate release: November 12, 2014)

Marin Alternative School Students to attend DUI Trial at Civic Center

On Tuesday, November 18, 2014, a DUI trial will be convened in Courtroom F at the Marin Superior Court in San Rafael.

One hundred students are expected to be in the courtroom for this DUI trial. They will include students from San Rafael City Schools' Madrone Continuation High School, Novato Unified School District's Marin Oaks Continuation High School, and Marin County Office of Education's Marin's Community School/Phoenix Academy. Retired Marin Superior Court Judge Lynn Duryee will preside over the criminal proceedings.

As part of the Court's Real DUI Court in Schools Program and in coordination with the Marin County Office of Education, these students will have the opportunity to observe first hand the legal 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 hear testimony about the circumstances of the arrest and detention of the young defendant. And, if he or she is convicted, they will be present to hear the imposition of fines, penalties and other consequences.

Following the trial proceedings, Judge Duryee will speak briefly and then facilitate the Q & A period. Students can direct questions to any of the participants in the trial, including the judge, defendant, district attorney, public defender, 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.

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for 15 to 19 year olds – a primary collision factor being alcohol. The underage drinking statistics in Marin County are astounding and the County has seen too often the loss of life and severe injuries as a result. Preventing even one young person from getting behind the wheel impaired or into a car driven by someone who is intoxicated, may save lives.

The Real DUI Court in Schools Program is a collaborative effort involving the Court and its Real DUI Court in Schools community volunteers, the Marin County Office of Education, local high schools, the District Attorney, the Public Defender, and the Sheriff.

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