



# *Superior Court of California*

COUNTY OF VENTURA  
Hall of Justice  
800 South Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93009

*Michael D. Planet*  
*Executive Officer/Clerk*  
*and Jury Commissioner*

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Ventura Superior Court Celebrates Juror Appreciation Week May 8–12, 2017**

Ventura, Calif.—The Superior Court of Ventura County will celebrate Juror Appreciation Week, May 8–12, 2017, to recognize the service and participation of jurors from our community. Recognition for jurors during the second week in May was established by a special resolution passed by the California Legislature in 1998 to acknowledge the important contributions of citizens who devote their time and effort in making the cherished right of trial by jury a reality. Juror Appreciation week is now an annual event in courts throughout the state.

Juror participation guarantees that everyone has the right to a trial where they can be heard and judged by their peers. In recognition of this valuable service, the judicial branch has worked to make jury duty less burdensome with one-day or one-trial service and plain-language jury instructions.

Ventura Superior Court appreciates the sacrifices and essential contribution of jurors to our justice system. In celebration of Juror Appreciation week, banners honoring jurors will be displayed throughout the courthouse, light refreshments, bookmarks, crossword puzzles, and a certificate of appreciation signed by the California Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye and Ventura Superior Court Presiding Judge Patricia M. Murphy will be available to serving jurors.

“On behalf of all of the judges and the entire court staff, we thank our jurors for their valuable time and service. Jury service is not just an obligation; it is an opportunity and a fundamental right that all citizens have to participate in our justice system. We enjoy the fruits of democracy only when we actively, and sometimes inconveniently, work at it. We hope that the people we serve in this community value our justice system, including the critical right to a jury trial.”  
Hon. Patricia M. Murphy, Presiding Judge

Ventura Superior Court recently was awarded grant funding from the Judicial Council to improve technology in Jury Services. The funds will be allocated to

technological improvements scheduled for 2017 in Jury Services including the implementation of kiosks to streamline the check-in process, an upgrade the Jury data software to achieve 24/7 public access, and revision of the jury summons. In 2016, over 60,000 citizens of Ventura serve jury duty in person, and 520 jury panels were sent to courtrooms. Nationwide, approximately 9 million people are summoned to jury service, over 3.5 million prospective jurors are eligible and available to serve; and approximately 80 percent of prospective jurors complete service in one day.

For more information, contact Nan Richardson, Court Program Manager at (805) 289-8663 and or visit the Jury Service section of the Ventura Superior Court website at [www.ventura.courts.ca.gov](http://www.ventura.courts.ca.gov)

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