

Superior Court of California

Hall of Justice 800 South Victoria Avenue Ventura, CA 93009

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: May 9, 2019

Contact: Robert Sherman Assistant Executive Officer (805) 289-8514

Ventura Superior Court

Celebrates Juror Appreciation Week May 13–17, 2019

Ventura, California-The Superior Court of Ventura County will celebrate Juror Appreciation Week, May 13–17, 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 and "Jury Service is Justice Served."

"Jury participation guarantees that everyone has the right to a trial where they can be heard and judged by their peers," said Presiding Judge Kent M. Kellegrew. "In recognition of this valuable service, the judicial branch has worked to make jury duty less burdensome with one-day or one-trial service, plain-language jury instructions and other improvements. We deeply appreciate the sacrifices and contributions jurors make to our justice system."

Annually, millions of Californians statewide participate in jury service:

Almost 9 million people are summoned to jury service;

- More than 4 million prospective jurors are eligible and available to serve; and
- Approximately 80 percent of prospective jurors who report to courthouse in person complete service in one day.

Ventura Superior Court appreciates the sacrifices and essential contribution of jurors to our justice system. In celebration of Juror Appreciation Week, Judge David Worley will give the morning address, 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 Kent M. Kellegrew will be available to serving jurors.

"On behalf of all 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 appreciate that the people we serve in this community value our justice system, including the critical right to a jury trial," Honorable Kent M. Kellegrew, Presiding Judge.

For more information on jury service, contact Nan Richardson, Court Program Manager at 805-289-8663, and/or see the <u>Jury Service section</u> of the Ventura Superior Court website at: <u>www.ventura.courts.ca.gov</u>

###