



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

PRESS RELEASE
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For Immediate Release

**COURT ANNOUNCES YOUTH FORUM ON JUVENILE JUSTICE
IN OAKLAND
SEPTEMBER 27, 2003**

Oakland: The Superior Court in Alameda County invites youth, parents, guardians, educators, youth-related community agencies and members of the public from northern Alameda County to attend a half-day-long forum to discuss the Alameda County juvenile justice system.

The forum will be held on Saturday September 27th at the Allen Temple Baptist Church, Family Life Center located in Oakland. It is the first of two public forums scheduled in the coming months to increase community awareness of juvenile justice programs and resources available to youth and their families.

For the past several years the Superior Court has engaged in a variety of community outreach activities designed to increase public awareness of the role and purpose of the court. Public informational forums have been held annually throughout Alameda County on different topics. They have proven to be an effective means for providing the public an overview of the full spectrum of services and programs provided by the Superior Court. The forums have also served to inform the court of community sentiments and community concerns.

Vicki Ward, Juvenile Court Administrator, notes that public concerns over youth related issues were voiced at past community meetings leading to the decision to host two forums devoted exclusively to this topic. A second forum will be held in southern Alameda County in the spring of 2004.

The forums are structured to bring together members of the juvenile justice community, service providers, faith based organizations, youth, parents, and neighborhood associations. Ms. Ward stated, "Through their participation in meaningful dialog, participants become more informed about the issues and the efforts of those who are working on behalf of our youth in our community. Members of the Juvenile Justice Forum Planning Committee are excited about the prospect of what this event can mean to the community."

Contact: Vicki Ward, Juvenile Court Administrator
Ph. (510) 268-4146
email: vward@alameda.courts.ca.gov