



SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF MONTEREY

240 Church Street • Salinas, California • 93901 • (831) 775-5400
www.monterey.courts.ca.gov

Contact: STEPHANIE FATHY
Public Information Liaison
(831) 775-5400 x3020
mediainfo@monterey.courts.ca.gov

PRESS RELEASE

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GRANT AWARD PROVIDES DUI COURT PARTICIPANTS HELP AND HOPE

The California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) has awarded a \$250,000 grant in support of Monterey County's Driving Under the Influence (DUI) Court, which has been funded by OTS since the court was established in October 2015. **The National Center for DWI Courts (NCDC) has identified these problem-solving courts as "the most successful strategy for holding repeat impaired drivers accountable while ensuring they receive life-saving treatment."** Monterey County's DUI Court program is designed for high-risk offenders who have been arrested for their second or third DUI and are ready to admit and resolve their crime and addiction.

The continued OTS funding will partially support probation supervision, behavioral health case management, and drug and alcohol testing to ensure participants' compliance with treatment and supervision standards of the program. DUI Court participants are provided an opportunity to transform their lives through recovery, education, and attitude changes. Eligible DUI offenders are required to undergo substance abuse treatment and education in combination with regular judicial review, formal supervision, frequent and random alcohol and drug testing, and to adhere to other accountability measures. Successful recovery provides help and hope to individuals and reduces recidivism, crime, and inherent costs to the public for the benefit of community roadway safety.

Presiding Judge Lydia M. Villarreal stated, "The Monterey County Superior Court is honored to have the opportunity to sustain a DUI Court. It is one of the most important public service programs in which the Court and local justice partner agencies have invested. There are tragic consequences to our community if we fail to address the problem of driving under the influence. Often it is only intervention that encourages a person to address his or her alcohol addiction. This program provides our community with an important alternative and solution to these challenges; program participants have a unique opportunity for positive life changes."

Chief Probation Officer Marcia Parsons added, "The Monterey County Probation Department is pleased to continue our participation with our justice partners in the County's Driving Under the Influence collaborative court model. This model has been shown to enhance community safety

and promote healthier lives for participants and their families by providing supervision and treatment for high-risk offenders."

Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

The DUI Court is supported by a partnership with Monterey County Offices of Probation, Behavioral Health, District Attorney, Public Defender and the Sheriff. This Court is only the 9th in the State of California and is modeled after the successful Drug Court program. Additional information on these evidence based practices can be found on the National Center for DWI Courts' website at: <http://www.dwicourts.org/learn/about-dwi-court> and on the National Association of Drug Court Professionals website at: <http://www.nadcp.org/learn/what-are-drug-courts>.

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