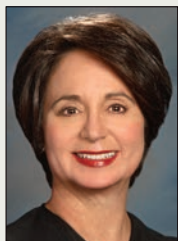


A Word from the Chair



*Janis L.
Sammartino,
District Judge*

Civics outreach efforts continue in all the judicial districts in the Ninth Circuit. Many judges, court staff and volunteers take time out of their very busy schedule to reach out to students and help them learn more about the Constitution, the federal courts and our democracy.

As part of this effort, all 15 districts in the circuit held a local civics contest in conjunction with the 2019 Ninth Circuit Civics Contest which focused on the 4th

Amendment. The contest challenged students to write an essay or produce a video focusing on the theme of the contest, *The 4th Amendment in the 21st Century – What is an “Unreasonable Search and Seizure” in the Digital Age?* The top winners in each district advanced as finalists at the circuit level. The 2019 Ninth Circuit Civics Contest winners of both the essay and video competitions were announced in June. Over 1,300 essay entries and 138 video entries were received from students from all parts of the circuit, submitting many well-written essays and artistically-produced videos. Students in the districts of Alaska, Arizona and Central California are the top winners in the essay portion, while students in districts of Central and Northern California, and Nevada are the top winners in the video portion.

The Ninth Circuit Courts and Community Committee, many judges and civics coordinators in each district, including the lawyer representatives, worked diligently to make sure that the number of students who participate increase every year. May it be through the flyers received by the teachers or a judge holding a brown bag lunch to talk about the contest, it feels rewarding to think that we reached many students who may have learned a bit more about the Constitution and the 4th Amendment.

On pages 2 and 3 are some photos from civics contest awards ceremony held throughout the circuit. I hope you enjoy these wonderful photographs.

Kari Kelso, Ph.D., who is the circuit's public education and community outreach administrator, has kept her calendar full of many student-related events happening at The Justice Anthony M. Kennedy Library and Learning Center. Kari manages all events held at the KLC.

Thank you for reading and hope that you have a great summer. □



District Judge John A. Kronstadt welcomes students to the Classroom-to-Courtroom program held in Los Angeles.

Classroom to Courtroom

“May it please the court...” could be heard through the halls of the First Street United States Courthouse in Los Angeles as 105 enthusiastic middle school students from Sal Castro and Wilmington Middle Schools presented oral arguments as part of the Classroom-to-Courtroom program, a partnership between the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California and the Constitutional Rights Foundation, “a non-profit, non-partisan, community-based organization dedicated to educating America’s young people about the importance of civic participation in a democratic society.” CRF develops, produces and distributes programs and materials to teachers and students all across the U.S.

The students began their morning in the large ceremonial courtroom with welcoming remarks by District Judge John A. Kronstadt. Magistrate Judge Suzanne H. Segal then spoke about what led her to pursue a legal career, as well as the role of a judge in the legal process. The students

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2019 Ninth Circuit Civics Contest: District-Level Winners



Throughout the Ninth Circuit, courts held ceremonies recognizing their local civics contest winners and finalists in the circuit-wide competition. Here are a selection of images of students being honored in their respective districts.

Clockwise from below: District of Arizona, District of Alaska, and District of Northern Mariana Islands.





Clockwise from above: District of Guam, District of Montana, and Northern District of California.





then learned from an assistant federal public defender and an assistant U.S. attorney about their roles as well as the paths that led each of them to his or her current position. A deputy U.S. marshal described the scope of his duties and shared his story on what led him to decide to serve as a law enforcement officer. A common theme among these presentations was to work hard to achieve a goal. The students were very engaged and attentive. Following this session, the students were excited to get down to work as they prepared to play the roles of attorneys and Supreme Court justices arguing and deciding a real Supreme Court case, Riley v. California. The students worked in three groups with each group working in a separate courtroom.

With the help of federal judges and volunteers from the Office of the U.S. Attorney and the Office of the Federal Public Defender, students considered the constitutionality of a police search of a cellphone. After a general presentation to all the students about the decisions in the case by the district and appellate courts, they were divided into three groups – one to argue for the petitioner, one to argue for the respondent, and the others to be the Supreme Court justices. Each group then met separately with the lawyers and judges to prepare for the arguments. It didn't take long before the student-attorneys were ready to argue each side and for the student-justices to be ready to question those attorneys. When the court was called to order, each student-attorney confidently stood up and argued on behalf of



Students participated in a mock trial, taking on the roles of Supreme Court justices and attorneys, and engaged themselves throughout the day asking presenters questions ranging from their duties to what they enjoy most about their job.

the client, and the student-justices asked challenging questions from the bench.

At the conclusion of the arguments, the student-justices decided the case and were then informed about how the Supreme Court decided it. Students walked away from the experience with a better understanding of the Bill of Rights and our judicial system, and all had an opportunity to interact positively with role models from the legal community.

Special thanks to Judge Kronstadt and Pamela Gamble Jackson, who were instrumental in making the visit possible. CRF and the U.S. District Court look forward to partnering again in the fall to have another “Classroom-to-Courtroom” session at the courthouse with a new group of middle school students excited to see the justice system in action!



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