

Strategic Issue 7 - Building Trust and Confidence through Community Outreach

Issue description: It is important for the Court to have a positive image within the community so that the justice system is respected and kept strong. Maintaining two-way communication between the Court and community can enhance the ability of the Court to serve the Community at the highest level possible.



Several Judges, Commissioners, and their Spouses help build local housing



Judge Jack Nevin addresses jurors

Goal 7.1: The Court will increase its community outreach. Strategies:

7.1(a) Establish a court speaker's bureau for education and public relations targeting the schools, service organizations, and other community groups.

7.1(b) Collaborate with educational institutions, legal services providers, bar associations, and organizations that promote excellence in the judicial system to enhance community awareness of the Court, to expand existing programs (such as mock trials and a Judge in the classroom) and develop new outreach programs.

7.1(c) Actively inform the public about the role of the judiciary in our society.

7.1(d) Regularly update the Court's brochure and web site.

7.1(e) Design and implement an activity in conjunction with Law Day.

7.1(f) Design and implement a community service activity.

7.1(g) Improve jury orientation, including brochure, script, feedback by e-mail, and an updated video.

7.1(h) Send letters to educators, libraries and service clubs, enclosing video and offering judges to speak to their group.



Judge Stephanie Arend speaking at CLE



Judge Jerry Costello in the classroom



Judge G. Helen Whitener at Lincoln High School

Goal 7.2 Ensure the Community has regular input to the Court's planning process.

Strategies:

7.2(a) Provide opportunities for input and discussion with the Court's stakeholders as part of the Court's strategic planning process and evaluation of progress toward its goals.

7.2(b) Identify frequently asked questions and post FAQ and answers on the Court's web site. Consider the use of e-mail for the public to ask questions and provide feedback about general court operations.

