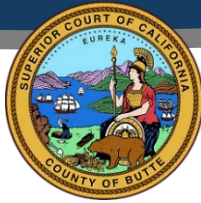


SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF BUTTE



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PRESS RELEASE

2026 Law Day Program

The Superior Court of California, County of Butte (Court) is pleased to announce that on May 1, 2026, it will recognize Law Day, an annual commemoration held to celebrate the rule of law and cultivate a deeper understanding of the legal system.

To mark this occasion, the Court will host its annual Elementary School Mock Trial Program at the North Butte County Courthouse in Chico, where two local 5th grade classes will participate in a theater-style mock trial of a criminal case using a script written by a group of Chico High School students. The high school student writers centered the script around the Declaration of Independence. The younger student participants prepared for the event by studying the Declaration of Independence in their classrooms and with a visit from Judge Kristen A. Lucena, who is also leading the Law Day program. Butte County Schools have been strong partners in the Court's efforts to promote civic learning. The teachers use these hands-on lessons as a springboard to support further writing and history curricula.

The 2026 Law Day theme is "The Rule of Law and the American Dream." It represents the fundamental idea that no person is above the law. It is also the principle that ensures the rights of the people to live their lives as freely as possible and to pursue their dreams.

"Law Day 2026 is particularly poignant as we celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. The lessons of fairness and justice resonate with this age group of young students. Each year we see students grasp a deep understanding of their role in our democracy, especially as potential jurors, and the thoughtful work of those who contribute to our system of justice." stated Judge Kristen A. Lucena.

Law Day brings the foundational jury trial rights enshrined in the Bill of Rights to life for participating students, and the Court looks forward to continuing the tradition of promoting civic learning about the legal system through this year's program.