

Contact Person:

Jean Pennypacker

408.882.2718

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 01/28/2004

JUVENILE DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE COURT RECEIVES HONOR

The Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara, is pleased to announce that its Juvenile Domestic and Family Violence Court has been chosen as one of the "Top 50" programs in the 2004 *Innovations in American Government Awards* competition. The Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government administers the *Innovations* program. The objectives of the *Innovations* program competition are to communicate to the public information about government effectiveness, to give recognition to especially effective programs, and to improve government performance by identifying programs that may be worthy of replication. The 50 selected programs represent 7% of the 2004 applicant pool.

The Juvenile Domestic and Family Violence Court is a specialized problem-solving court which seeks to address juvenile domestic and family violence at the earliest stage, to provide appropriate assistance to victims, and to break the cycle of violence within the family. Established in April 1999 under the leadership of Judge Eugene M. Hyman, it was the first such court in the nation, and represents a collaborative effort involving the Court, the Office of the District Attorney, the Office of the Public Defender, the Juvenile Probation Department, and victim services. Major funding for the program is provided by the participating agencies and the California Office of Criminal Justice Planning. The program was also honored by the California State Administrative Office of the Courts in 2001, when it was selected as a recipient of the *Ralph N. Kleps Award* for improvement in the administration of the Courts.