



CENTER FOR JUDICIAL EXCELLENCE

August 30, 2006

The Honorable Verna Adams
Hall of Justice
3501 Civic Center Drive
San Rafael, CA 94913-4988

The Honorable Faye D'Opal
Hall of Justice
3501 Civic Center Drive
San Rafael, CA 94913-4988

Dear Judge Adams & Judge D'Opal:

Thank you for your letter of August 16, 2006 explaining your reasons for being unable to meet privately with members of the *Center for Judicial Excellence*. While we understand that a private meeting might be misconstrued as an attempt to gain access, we want to emphasize that we have no interest in swaying the court for or against any pending case. We would also like to emphasize again that the *Center for Judicial Excellence* was founded to encourage court representatives and the Marin community to share thoughts, ideas and strategies for improving court processes and mechanisms in the broadest sense.

With this in mind, we would like to formally **request your attendance and/or participation in a Public Forum to be held on Wednesday, September 27, 2006 at the College of Marin's Olney Hall.**

The event is titled "Marin Judicial Forum: A Community Dialogue" and is part of the American Town Hall Forum series sponsored by the College of Marin Students for Social Responsibility.

We are requesting your participation as a Panel Member, along with other judges, community leaders, and legal representatives. A brief forum abstract and list of panel invitees is attached for your review.

The purpose of this forum is to foster a constructive dialogue among Marin residents, local legal and community organizations and the Marin County Superior Court. We look forward to providing the Marin community with an opportunity to learn from the judicial community about its successes and challenges through a panel discussion and a structured Question & Answer session with audience members. **CJE will send a countywide mailing to Marin residents in early September inviting them to attend.**

Organized by the Center for Judicial Excellence, the Judicial Forum is co-sponsored by a growing list of local agencies and groups including the **Marin Human Rights Commission, College of Marin Students for Social Responsibility, Democracy for America- Marin, Women Helping All People and the Marin Peace & Justice Coalition.**

We were excited to learn from your most recent letter that the Marin County Superior Court has created a Judicial Community Outreach Committee. With Judge Faye D'Opal as chair and Judge Verna Adams a member of the Committee, we believe your participation in the Marin Judicial Forum is especially critical. Moreover, we welcome your suggestions and input in crafting the event agenda itself. If you are unable to participate as members of the Judicial Community Outreach Committee, we would greatly appreciate your recommendation as to who from this new committee is willing and able to participate.

Thank you for including a list of ways the court interfaces with the public in your recent letter. Please note that we have already invited the Legal Self-Help Center to participate in our Forum. We are interested in learning more about the drug, mental health, Proposition 36, and youth courts programs -- a summary of objectives and activities, and the name and contact information (phone, email, physical address) of the directors of these programs would be particularly helpful. Please feel free to contact me with any additional information or suggestions via email at info@centerforjudicialexcellence.org.

Again, we believe your participation in the Marin Judicial Forum is essential to its success, and we would be honored to have you sit on the Forum Panel. Please let me know of your availability by sending a written response to the address below or by calling 415-267-6149.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Erin Fogg
Center for Judicial Excellence