



# PRESS RELEASE

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## TOWNHALL SERIES HONORED FOR COMMUNITY OUTREACH ON ELIMINATING BIAS

**SAN BERNARDINO, CA**— San Bernardino Superior Court’s Community Outreach Committee was recognized statewide by the California Judges Association (CJA) with the inaugural *2021 Community Outreach Award* for its Townhall Series on Eliminating Bias. SBSC’s Community Outreach Award was presented during the CJA Annual Conference on September 26 in Monterey, CA to Community Outreach Chair Committee Chair, Judge John M. Pacheco; and the Elimination of Bias Committee Co-Chair, Judge Khymerli S. Apaloo.

Facing the many challenges of 2020, SBSC responded to the need of addressing racism and bias in our community following the death of George Floyd and civil unrest experienced nationwide. While social distancing was still urgently needed, and remote meetings became customary, SBSC continued to provide a public forum to facilitate dialogue with the community to foster trust, openness, and transparency.

“We are proud that our Community Outreach Townhall Series was recognized at a statewide level among our peers”, said Presiding Judge Michael A. Sachs. “SBSC continues to advance initiatives in support of equal access to justice and we are glad that we’ve maintained a strong and institutionalized practice of community engagement during periods of remote work and as we return to normal.”

Since the launch of the townhall series, SBSC has partnered statewide and locally with other courts on how to implement similar outreach programs, and shared successes and tips via a townhall tool kit. Although SBSC’s townhalls have centered on eliminating bias, the virtual format can be replicated with almost any topic among other courts and government agencies alike.

For media-related inquiries, please contact Julie Van Hook, Communications and Public Affairs Officer at [courts-pio@sb-court.org](mailto:courts-pio@sb-court.org).