



**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF MERCED**
www.merced.courts.ca.gov

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MERCED SUPERIOR COURT TO RELEASE STATEWIDE ONLINE SECURITY TRAINING

The Merced Superior Court will be releasing an interactive court security training program to all California courts. The on-line security training program is the first in California and will be used by Judicial Officers, court security staff and court employees. The project was funded by a State Justice Institute grant.

The FBI issued a report recently that found the number of active shooters in the United States has steadily increased in the past ten years. The first five years reported an average of 15.2 incidents a year; the next five years had an average of 17.6 incidents. From 2014-2015, California had the most incidents as well as the highest number of casualties including a total of 20 killed.

Courthouses are always at risk for violence, in large part due to the nature of the business conducted in our nation's courts. California superior courts contract with county sheriff's departments to provide security for the courts. The Merced Superior Court's concern for the safety of all individuals visiting the courthouse was to develop a training program that would enhance the training already provided to its court security and court employees. The Court had already experienced a shooting in the courthouse in 2008 when a knife-wielding intruder was shot and killed in the courtroom.

Merced Superior Court applied for a \$12,000 grant from the State Justice Institute. The only other state that has this program is the Arkansas Administrative Office of the Courts. Once awarded the grant, the Court partnered with the National Center for State Courts and the Security Coordinator for Judicial Council of California to develop a highly interactive and immersive online training program. This video is the first of its kind in the state of California and is aimed at training law enforcement and court personnel in four critical areas:

- How to Respond to an Active Shooter which includes a segment for court staff and judicial officers on Run/Hide/Fight
- Best Practices in Court Security

- Judicial Threat Management
- Body Language as a Communication Tool

The video will be distributed statewide for every court to use and implement in safety training both for law enforcement and court staff.

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