



**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT**

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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Probation No. 17-09

DATE: **December 11, 2017**

### **SUPERIOR COURT OF SANTA BARBARA COUNTY HONORS GRADUATES OF THE SANTA MARIA PROP. 36 TREATMENT COURT**

Santa Maria - On Wednesday, December 13, 2017, the Honorable Kay Kuns will host a commencement ceremony to honor 10 graduates of the Proposition 36 (Prop. 36) Treatment Court. The graduation will begin at 2:30 p.m. at the Santa Maria Veterans Memorial Building located at 313 W. Tunnel. The 10 graduates have successfully completed the 6-month treatment program and have maintained sobriety. They will receive certificates of completion and will be given an opportunity to speak about their experience in the Prop. 36 program. A reception will immediately follow the ceremony. This event will also mark the fact that more than 1,500 participants have successfully completed Santa Maria's Prop. 36 program since its inception in 2001.

Prop. 36, the Substance Abuse and Crime Prevention Act (SACPA), was passed by California voters in November 2000 and implemented in July 2001. In Santa Barbara County, program participants are sentenced to a minimum of 6 months of intensive treatment, probation supervision, and multiple court reviews. The program promotes sobriety, recovery, and stability, and successful completion may result in dismissal of charges and early termination of probation. This effort is tied to a multi-departmental collaboration involving the Superior Court, the Probation Department, the Offices of the Public Defender and the District Attorney, the Department of Behavioral Wellness, the University of California Santa Barbara, and the Sheriff's Office.

To learn more about Treatment Courts including resources, legislation, and statistics, visit [www.nadcp.org](http://www.nadcp.org).

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