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NEWS RELEASE

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San Diego City Attorney's Office Attends Launch of Homeless Service Provider Toolkit

San Diego, CA: The San Diego Homeless Court Program announced the debut of the "Homeless Service Provider Toolkit" – a comprehensive reference tool for homeless community service providers. In an event held at the DLA Piper Law Firm on March 10th, the Homeless Court Program launched this innovative tool and also celebrated its 20th anniversary to honor those who have participated in this program.

The San Diego City Attorney's Office has been involved with The Homeless Court Program as a partner since its inception in 1989, recognizing the resolution of outstanding misdemeanor criminal cases and warrants as being a fundamental need for the homeless in their efforts to re-enter society. Prosecutors work with Public Defenders in this consensus court, to give credit to those homeless individuals making significant progress within their shelter program. Service providers work with the Homeless Court Team to keep everyone informed on the issues addressed in treatment, goals completed, and progress made. Depending on the charges before the court, an individual's progress may result in a dismissal of charges, deletion of fines, and/or removal of warrants.

"It is important for participants to understand that even though we represent the prosecution, we are part of the team of resources used to help the participant's succeed," said Deputy City Attorney Regan Savalla. "We appreciate and commend the efforts of participants to change their situation by demonstrating a willingness to take responsibility for their cases and work hard at completing their programs."

The Toolkit will serve as a great resource for attorneys, providers and the court so all involved can better understand and provide integrity to the Homeless Court process. Each partner's complete role, including that of the City Attorney's Office, is explained in the toolkit, from general policy considerations to the details of how the court calendar is created. Additionally, the Toolkit can guide other jurisdictions who have similar programs or are considering starting a Homeless Court.

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