

## San Diego City Attorney Jan I. Goldsmith

## **NEWS RELEASE**

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 15, 2012

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## THERE IS SUCH A THING AS INSTANT JUSTICE

CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE GEARS UP FOR SPRING BREAK EDITION

**San Diego, CA**: If you get a ticket between **March 1<sup>st</sup> and March 25<sup>th</sup>** for committing selected non-traffic infractions or misdemeanors such as open container, consuming alcohol in public, littering on the beach, dog off leash, smoking in the park or urinating in public, you may be eligible for **INSTANT JUSTICE.** 

The Instant Justice program has been a highly successful effort of the City Attorney's Neighborhood Prosecution Unit (NPU) and partners at SDPD's Northern Division, Discover Pacific Beach, and San Diego's Department of Park and Recreation.

This year, in consideration of the influx of spring break revelers from all cities near and far as well as St. Patrick's Day festivities locally, potential offenders from the areas of Pacific Beach, Mission Beach, Mission Bay Park, Ocean Beach, Sunset Cliffs and North Park who are cited through March 25<sup>th</sup> and complete five hours of community work service in the beach area on **MARCH 26<sup>th</sup>** will avoid their citations being filed.

"This is a chance to give college students and others enjoying spring break and St. Patrick's Day a second chance," said City Attorney Jan Goldsmith. "Instead of traveling back to San Diego to attend your court proceeding at a future date, you'll have the chance to give back to our community and avoid a criminal charge on your record."

In 2011, the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and Labor Day holidays brought out 74 offenders that completed over 370 hours of community work service such as cleaning up the beaches and surrounding areas hit hardest from the holiday crowds.

Eligible participants need to bring their citation, valid photo I.D., \$40 cash or cashier's check and show up at the parking lot of Pacific Beach Shore Club, 4343 Ocean Boulevard, San Diego, 92109 at **9:00 a.m. on March 26<sup>th</sup>**.

<u>The City Attorney's Neighborhood Prosecution Unit</u> is involved in several alternative sentencing programs and community courts. In the alternative courts, offenders give back to the community in which they have committed certain crimes. Alternative sentencing programs are aimed at intervention, diversion, reducing recidivism and restoring the community.

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