



**SUPERIOR COURT OF  
CALIFORNIA  
COUNTY OF MERCED**

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For Immediate Release

**Statewide Court Security Training hosted in Merced Superior  
Court**



**Shown above are Tim Fautsko (L) and Judge Lee Sinclair (R)**

The Merced Superior Court recently hosted a two day Court security training for Judicial Officers, Court staff, Justice Partners and Sheriff's employees in California. Representatives from various California courts, Sheriff Agencies, Judicial Council Security participated as well as local justice partners. The training was conducted by two nationally renowned security experts: Judge Lee Sinclair from Ohio and Timm Fautsko from Colorado. Judge Sinclair, a faculty member with the National Judicial College in

Reno developed the first security course for judges and is nationally known as a judicial educator and court security consultant to the National Center for State Courts. He has been a consultant for CNN, NBC, CBS, The New York Times and the LA Times. He has authored many professional articles. Mr. Fautsko, a court security consultant with the National Center for State Courts for more than 20 years developed several guidelines and best practices in Court Security and has conducted 275 courthouse security assessments. He has consulted to courts in the US and in eight foreign countries and the U.S. territory of Puerto Rico. According to one of the attendees, Lt. Bruce Smith, Riverside Sheriff's Department, "This presentation was exactly what California's Superior Court Presiding Judges, CEO's and Sheriffs have long needed. Truly effective courthouse security is a shared responsibility and that message was driven home these past two days by the presenters and their sponsors at the Merced Court."

Presiding Judge Brian McCabe was pleased that the Merced Superior Court could host this important event. In 2008, a man barged into the Merced Courthouse and into McCabe's courtroom with two knives charging at the judge and was shot and killed by deputies.

The court applied for a security training grant for the purpose of training court deputies, court staff and Judicial Officers in August 2014. The training was funded by a technical assistance grant from the National Center for State Courts located in Williamsburg, VA.

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