



SUPERIOR COURT OF
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NEWS RELEASE

RIVERSIDE SUPERIOR COURT FORMS "COMMITTEE TO ELIMINATE BIAS AND PROMOTE EQUAL JUSTICE"

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RIVERSIDE COUNTY:

Throughout our nation, state and local communities there is a recognition that racism, historical biases, and discrimination continues to permeate society, including our justice system. As a result, Presiding Judge, John M. Monterosso announced the formation of the *Committee to Eliminate Bias and Promote Equal Justice* in November of 2020. The 20-member committee is chaired by Judge Gail O'Rane.

On April 19, 2021, the Committee adopted the following Mission Statement:

"The Riverside County Superior Court joins the California Supreme Court in condemning racism, historical biases, and discrimination in all forms. We recognize and accept that there is much work to do to ensure equality and inclusion are a reality for all. Therefore, we will strive to improve our communication between the Court, justice partners, and court users while identifying and confronting institutional racism, historical biases, and discrimination within the justice system and our community. We continue to evaluate and address our commitment to uphold our constitutional values to ensure equal justice to all who appear before us and the communities we serve."

In forming this committee, the Riverside Superior Court joins the California Supreme Court and Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye in condemning racism and injustice in all forms. Presiding Judge Monterosso commented, *"The principle which encompasses the purpose and mission of the judicial branch of government is written in bold letters above the entrance to the U.S. Supreme Court – 'Equal Justice Under Law'. The Riverside Superior Court is committed to working to eliminate all forms of bias within our branch to ensure that phrase is a reality to all who pass under the entrances of our courthouses."*

The Committee held its inaugural meeting on April 7, 2021. Soon after a mission statement was adopted and three subcommittees were formed:

- **Education**
- **Community Outreach**
- **Stakeholders**

Each subcommittee will work in conjunction to fulfill the overall mission of the Committee.

For more information on this committee, please visit the court's website at www.riverside.courts.ca.gov.