

Superior Court of California, County of Contra Costa

Web Resources for Schools/Teachers

Contra Costa County Superior Court's website (www.cc-courts.org), and the Court's Virtual Self-Help Law Center website (www.cc-courthelp.org) are filled with information that could be used to supplement teaching material about California's court system.

How Courts Work

www.cc-courthelp.org/howcourtswork

The courts were set up to provide for the orderly settlement of disputes between two sides in a dispute, determine the guilt or innocence of those accused of violating laws, and protect the rights of individuals. Courts are part of the judicial branch of government – the “third branch,” as it is called. These essays explain how courts work in a general way.

- Courts and their Cases
- Jurisdiction
- Laws and Regulations
- Statute of Limitations
- Starting or Extending Lawsuit
- Rules of Court
- Alternative Dispute Resolution
- Parties in a Lawsuit
- Trial Court Personnel
- Lawyers and Their Services
- Juries
- Court Interpreters
- Court Culture
- How Court Cases Work
- How Court Cases Start
- Motions in a Court Case
- How Parties Prepare for Trial
- Evidence for Court
- Burden of Proof
- Court Trials
- How Court Cases End

You and the Court

www.cc-courthelp.org/youandthecourt

While handling a lawsuit can be difficult – with or without a lawyer – people can make it easier by learning something about court processes. These essays describe some of the aspects of going to court.

- Working with Lawyers
- Representing Yourself Successfully
- Doing Legal Research
- Tips on Getting Evidence
- Tips for Filling Out Forms
- Fees and Costs
- Case Type Definition
- Restraining Orders
- Checklist for Court

Short Videos with General Information about the Courts

www.cc-courthelp.org/generalinfovideos

The Virtual Self-Help Law Center has short videos with general information about how California's court system works. These are in both English and Spanish.

English

- Your Day in Court
- Before You Go to Court
- Paperwork Basics
- Jurisdiction
- Service of Process
- Tips on Going to Court

Spanish

- Su Día en Corte
- Antes de comenzar su caso
- Principios básicos
- Jurisdicción
- Entrega legal
- Consejos para ir a la corte

Fact Sheets about the Contra Costa County Superior Court

www.cc-courts.org/courtfactsheets

These information sheets move from the general to specific information about how the courts work in Contra Costa County, California.

- Alternative Dispute Resolution
- Americans with Disabilities
- Courts and Their Cases
- Case Type Definitions
- Court Contact Information
- Court Locations and Services
- Interpreters
- Jury Duty
- May I Help You? (JC Form MC-800)
- Restraining Orders (including DVRO)
- Self Help Workshops and Clinics
- Traffic
- Trial Court Personnel
- Virtual Self Help Law Center/ Centro Virtual Ayuda de Legal
- Volunteer Programs

Virtual Tours of Court Houses in Contra Costa County

www.cc-courthelp.org/court_tours

The Court's website has "tours" of all of the courthouses. These pages include court hours, contact information, maps, and directions, the roles of court staff and more.

- Martinez Superior Court
- Concord Superior Court
- Pittsburg Superior Court
- Richmond Superior Court
- Walnut Creek Superior Court

Other Links and Resources

- California Courts: <http://www.courts.ca.gov>
- Federal Courts: <http://www.uscourts.gov/FederalCourts.aspx>
- What is happening in court: <http://www.courts.ca.gov/10408.htm>
- When you become 18: <http://calbar.ca.gov/Public/Pamphlets/WhenYouBecome18.aspx>