

## **CCN Script: Judicial Administration Graduate Certificate Program Graduation, 5/8/09**

About 20,000 people work in California's judicial branch; many in leadership positions are on the verge of retiring. So the court is actively recruiting and training the leaders of tomorrow. The court partnered with Sacramento State to create a graduate program in judicial administration – pointing to exciting career opportunities.

Ken Torre, Director  
Judicial Administration Program

*“Just simply the numbers of court staff retiring will lead to natural openings.”*

There are only a few programs like this in the country. Students can earn a masters degree. Or they can go for the certificate program – 4 courses over a 2 year period. Classes meet once a month for 2 days in Sacramento.

And this is the very first graduation of certificate students – a class of ten.

Hon. Ronald B. Robie  
3<sup>rd</sup> Appellate District

*“On behalf of the Judicial Council, I want to welcome all of you. The presiding judges, executive officers, friends and families and graduating students of this inaugural program.”*

The president of Sacramento State says the partnership between the court and university works for everyone.

Alexander Gonzalez, President  
California State Univ. Sacramento

*“It represents partnerships meeting the real needs of California and leveraging the strengths of a metropolitan university.”*

The curriculum is rigorous – definitely a graduate level academic experience – requiring long hours of study – papers to write and thousands of pages to read. Kevin Harrigan found the coursework and the demanding schedule to be challenging.

Monica Harrigan *“Because of that I think it's that much more rewarding for him, so it's really good.”*

Kevin Harrigan, Colusa County Office of Educ.

*“It was a grueling program. It's a great sense of accomplishment.”*

Hector Gonzalez is a court analyst in San Luis Obispo. He says he's already applying lessons learned.

Hector Gonzalez, San Luis Obispo  
Court Mgmt Analyst

*“This was an invaluable experience and I'm just glad that I was able to do it.”*

Administrators are going to accelerate their recruitment for more students for the judicial administration grad program, which is open to anyone with a bachelor's degree. The need for well trained court professionals is great.

Mike Roddy, Faculty  
San Diego CEO

*"We are looking for trained professional administrators and leaders to help us manage this very large and complex branch of government."*

The rewards are great, as well.

Justice Robie *"So Congratulations on behalf of the branch."*

I'm Leanne Kozak reporting for California Courts News.