



United States District Court, Southern District of California

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PRESS RELEASE

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“Portraits of Justice” Exhibit Grand Opening – January 23

Exhibit Showcases the Art of Courtroom Sketching, High-Profile Trials

SAN DIEGO – A new exhibit at the federal courthouse in downtown San Diego will highlight two centuries of courtroom sketching, and features some of the most high-profile trials of olden and modern times. The exhibit, “Portraits of Justice,” opens to the public on January 23rd, 2020.

Starting on the second floor of the courthouse, the exhibit moves through the history of courtroom illustration and includes sketches from the trials of Lizzie Borden and Charles Manson, cases concerning 9/11 and the Pentagon Papers, and other fleeting glimpses of federal and state courthouse trials from across the country. Some historic trials include the inquisition of Galileo Galilei and the Salem Witch Trials. The exhibit also has a special focus on trials presided over by judges from the U.S. District Court of the Southern District of California.

Selections include those of the U.S. Supreme Court by artists Marilyn Church, Betty Wells and Carole Kabrin; and Janet Hamlin’s sole work of the Guantanamo Bay 9/11 hearings. Celebrity sketches of O.J. Simpson, Michael Jackson and Tom Brady are also included.

The exhibit was curated by Krentz Johnson, a local San Diego courtroom artist. “This exhibit is a glimpse into the past, and into the golden age of courtroom illustration,” said Ms. Johnson. The production vendor was Impact Visual Arts of San Diego.

“The Southern District of California is pleased to provide this view into the justice system,” said Janis L. Sammartino, federal district judge and chair of the Ninth Circuit’s Public Information and Community Outreach Committee. “More than 3,000 students and hundreds of others visit the courthouse each year through the various civics education programs we offer. This exhibit will increase the public’s understanding of the judiciary, especially our local federal court, as sketch art is one of the ways the public can see what has occurred within our walls.”

The public is invited to view the exhibit at the Edward J. Schwartz U.S. Courthouse at 221 West Broadway in downtown San Diego. The courthouse is open to the public during business hours, 8:30 to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday, with valid identification. For more information, contact Lisa Christensen, Community Outreach Coordinator at 619-557-6928.

Members of the media are invited to attend prior to the grand opening on Thursday, January 23, 2020 for a press photo opportunity at 3:00 pm. An RSVP by Wednesday, January 22nd is required to be included in the camera order allowing pictures in the courthouse. Please RSVP to Lisa Christensen at 619-557-6928. Sketch artists will participate in a presentation and a Q&A session at 4:00 pm in Courtroom 4D, Edward J. Schwartz U.S. Courthouse, with a reception following.

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