

**Superior Court of California
County of Santa Clara**



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Santa Clara County Judge Honored as Mental Health Champion

Judge Stephen Manley receives Words to Deeds Award for his many years of work championing collaborative courts that address mental illness.

SAN JOSE, Calif. (January 28, 2013): on Thursday, January 24, 2013, the Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara's (Court) Judge Stephen Manley (Supervising Judge – Adult Drug and Mental Health Court) was honored with the Words to Deeds Award as this year's Judicial Champion.

Words to Deeds is produced by the Forensic Mental Health Association of California and hosted by the California State Association of Counties. The awards are bestowed upon leaders in criminal justice health who champion efforts to end criminalization of individuals with mental illness by supporting strategies that promote early intervention, access to effective treatments, a planned reentry, and the preservation of public safety.

"Judge Manley is an exceptional jurist and I can think of no one more deserving of this award. He sets the bar, on a national level, for the judicial branch's commitment to administering justice and serving those with mental illness," said Presiding Judge Brian C. Walsh. "Judge Manley's dedication to ensuring justice and collaborative approaches that address the mental health needs of those in our criminal justice system has positively impacted the lives of thousands of residents of Santa Clara County."

Since 2003, Words to Deeds has provided a unique forum that has evolved into a standard best practice for creating a true shift in the paradigm between criminal justice and mental health by fostering successful and ongoing collaboration among courts, criminal justice agencies, mental health professionals, and non-governmental agencies.

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