

OBITER DICTUM

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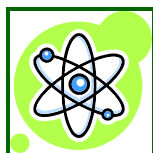
LIBRARY HOURS



The library will be **OPEN** on Monday, October 10, the official observance of Columbus Day, as well as on Wednesday, October 12, the actual date of Día de la Raza and Columbus Day.

For details, check the Legal Research Center web site at <http://www.sandiego.edu/lrc/about/hours.php>.

HAVE YOU ORBITED THE LRC LATELY?



Not only can you **SURF** the LRC on the revamped Web site at <http://www.sandiego.edu/lrc/>, you can also **ORBIT** it by clicking on the [lrc-orbit](http://www.sandiego.edu/lrc/) link or by going directly to <http://lrc-orbit.blogspot.com/>, where you can blog away in response to the law- and legal research-related musings of Foreign and International Law Librarian Brian Williams and other LRC librarians. When you've finished perusing the latest blog entries, you can link directly to other legal blogs, click on one of dozens of links to the top legal research sites, catch legal news hot off of the Jurist news feed, play online chess, or even check out what's happening at the Comic Book Legal Defense Fund.

Please take a look at the LRC Orbit, and let Brian know if you have any ideas to make it even better. He can be reach at bwilliams@SanDiego.edu or at extension 7557.

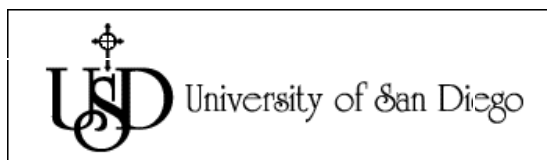
HOW THE PUBLIC VIEWS CALIFORNIA COURTS



Public trust and confidence in the California courts is substantially higher now than in previous years, a new state survey shows. The survey reveals that 67 percent of the public has a positive attitude about the courts, compared to less than 50 percent in 1992. The survey also shows that the key predictor of public trust and confidence is that court procedures be fair.

The diversity of the public served by the California courts is striking. Of the more than 2,400 public survey respondents, 47 percent were ethnic minorities, while 31 percent were born outside the United States.

The newsletter section of OBITER DICTUM may be found at <http://www.sandiego.edu/lrc/catalogs/news.php>



**CALIFORNIA
COURTS
(cont.)**



The cost of hiring an attorney, regardless of the respondent's income level, is the most commonly stated barrier to taking a case to court. Other barriers include lack of child care, distance to be traveled, and unease about what might happen if one became involved in a court case.

Some 56 percent of Californians have been involved in a case that brought them to a courthouse, mainly through responding to a jury summons or serving as a juror. Service as a juror increases confidence in the courts. However, defendants in traffic cases and both litigants and attorneys in family or juvenile cases are less approving of the California courts.

The survey was carried out by the Public Research Institute at San Francisco State University, with the National Center for State Courts contributing to development of findings and recommendations. The survey is available on the California Courts Web site at www.courtinfo.ca.gov/reference/4_37pubtrust.htm. News Release, Judicial Council of California, Administrative Office of the Courts, New Survey Shows Public Trust and Confidence in Courts Is Climbing (Sept. 7, 2005) (Release No. 50), *submitted by Sushila Selness, Head of Collection Services*.

**LRC CELEBRATES
CONSTITUTION
WEEK**



The Congress, by joint resolution, designated September 17th as "Citizenship Day" and the week beginning September 17th and ending September 23rd of each year as "Constitution Week." Public Law 108-477 contained in the recent Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2005 states that "each educational institution that receives federal funds for a fiscal year shall hold an educational program on the United States Constitution on September 17 of such year for the students served by the educational institution." National Center for Constitutional Studies, Celebrating Constitution Week, <http://www.nccs.net/constitution-week/> (last visited Sept. 27, 2005).

The LRC observed Constitution Week with a beautiful display created by Circulation Assistant Inna Muradyan. Centered around a replica of the original manuscript, the exhibit included illustrations and descriptions of the signing and a brief bibliography of readings on the Constitution.

**DE FACTO
BUDGET CUTS**



Even in years when the budget for buying legal materials remains constant, galloping cost inflation has the effect of deflating buying power. Since 1998, for example, costs of statutory codes have increased 74%, for case reporters 128%, for looseleaves 41%, and for serials 61%.

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