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For Immediate Release

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# DA's Regional Leadership Institute Honored with 2018 NACo Achievement Award

## *Program Designed to Develop Diverse Leaders from the 'Inside Out'*

San Diego County District Attorney [Summer Stephan](#) announced today that her office has been recognized with an Achievement Award for its Regional Leadership Institute, from the National Association of Counties (NACo). The awards honor innovative, effective county government programs that strengthen services for residents.



In collaboration with federal, state and local law enforcement agencies, the District Attorney's Office launched the first-of-its-kind [San Diego County Regional Leadership Institute](#) to train law enforcement leaders "from the inside out." The three-week program is taught by more than 40 regional law enforcement leaders and consists of 42 courses that focus on self-awareness, leadership competencies and functional skills. A highlight of the leadership institute includes the 'Let's Be Real' series, which gives participants the opportunity to discuss current law enforcement issues and brainstorm ways to build stronger police-community relationships.

**"More than ever, local law enforcement agencies are required to understand and effectively operate in complex social, political and organizational environments," District Attorney Summer Stephan said. "Our Leadership Institute is helping to build more effective leaders and ultimately, stronger bridges between law enforcement and the communities we serve."**

One of the primary responsibilities of current law enforcement leaders is to develop future leaders. While many agencies have succession plans in place for projected retirements in the relatively short term, these plans may not take into account the role management can play in developing competent, self-aware and emotionally intelligent diverse leaders, earlier in their careers, and far in advance of immediate needs. Under District Attorney Summer Stephan's leadership, the District Attorney's Office recognized the need for a regional law enforcement leadership development program and began the work of assembling a team of law enforcement partners to develop and implement a training academy and core curriculum.

Watch a short video about the DA's Leadership Institute, [here](#).

Started in 1970, NACo's annual Achievement Awards program is designed to recognize county government innovations. Nationally, awards are given in 18 different categories that reflect the vast, comprehensive services counties provide. The categories include children and youth, criminal justice, county administration, information technology, health, civic engagement and many more. NACo will recognize the San Diego County District Attorney's Office with its award during the 2018 Annual NACo Conference and Exposition July 13 to 16 in Nashville.



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**About the San Diego County District Attorney's Office**

*The San Diego County DA's Office prosecutes all felony crimes in the county and misdemeanor crimes committed outside the City of San Diego. The office files about 40,000 criminal cases a year and balances prosecution with numerous crime prevention programs. District Attorney Summer Stephan leads the office of more than 1,000 dedicated employees who pursue justice and support victims daily across San Diego County. DA Summer Stephan has devoted her life to protecting children and families and providing justice to the voiceless and most vulnerable. She is a national leader in the fight against sexual exploitation and human trafficking, and has served as a Deputy District Attorney in San Diego County for 28 years.*

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