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release upon receipt

COUNTY RESIDENTS PARTICIPATE IN USD LAW SURVEY

Residents of San Diego County are being invited to participate in a survey of public attitudes about the legal profession in the Legal Services Project of the San Diego Law Center, located at the University of San Diego School of Law.

Selected at random by senior USD law students and interviewed by telephone, residents are asked to respond to some 50 questions which will help determine how well the public is being served by County attorneys. Tabulation of the results, says USD law professor Robert Simmons, project director, will provide information to lawyers on how they can improve their legal services, and will be used to determine ways of helping County residents identify and obtain effective legal assistance when it is needed.

Survey activities will continue through the next three weeks. Results will be tabulated by computer housed at the USD Law School and will be released in a report to be issued early in the Fall. According to Simmons, a workshop, to be held in late October or early November, will join lawyers and residents in a "brainfest," with open discussions of legal fees, problems in finding competent attorneys, and other

obstacles encountered by persons in need of legal assistance.

Legal advisors to the project are Craig D. Higgs, president-elect of the San Diego County Bar Association, and Judge Howard B. Wiener of the State Court of Appeals.

"We will continue our telephone calls," Simmons said, "until we have at least 600 responses. To complete the survey requires about 20 minutes of the respondent's time, and we recognize that can be something of an imposition, but San Diegans who participate in the survey are making a truly valuable contribution to our community."

Individuals who wish to respond to the survey may do so by contacting Professor Simmons at the University of San Diego Law School, 291-6480, extension 4378.

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For further information: Robert L. Simmons, J.D., Prof. of Law
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