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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday June 27, 2007

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TEENS TO COMPLETE SENTENCE BY ATTENDING “LIFE SKILLS” CLASSES

Teen Court Program of the El Paso County Attorney’s Office will be offering mandatory Life Skills classes for juvenile defendants on Wednesday June 27 and Thursday June 28, 2007 at the County Courthouse.

Every teen whose case is processed through the Teen Court program in El Paso County is required to fulfill half of the sentence by attending Life Skills classes.

More than two dozen teens from all over the County, and a few parents, are scheduled to attend the next Life Skills class sessions.

Representatives from El Paso Police Department, MADD, the Juvenile Probation Department, and the El Paso County Attorney’s Office will offer presentations on several topics, including Dating violence, gang prevention, and underage drinking.

AGENDA

Wednesday June 27, 2007

4:00 p.m. Gang Prevention (El Paso Police Department)

5:30 p.m. Underage Drinking (Mothers Against Drunk Drivers -MADD)

Thursday June 28, 2007

4:00 p.m. Legal Consequences of Breaking the Law (Juvenile Probation Dept.)

5:30 p.m. Preventing Dating Violence (County Attorney’s Office)

The classes will be offered in different rooms inside the County courthouse. Participating teens will meet Wednesday and Thursday at 3:45 p.m. on the 3rd floor of the Courthouse.

For more information about the Teen Court Program, please visit our website www.elpasoteencourt.com or call 546-2086.

WHO: Teen Court

WHAT: “Life Skills” classes

WHEN: June 27 and 28, 2007 from 4:00 to 7:00 PM

**WHERE: 3rd Floor of the El Paso County Courthouse
500 E. San Antonio (Central El Paso)**

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About the Teen Court: Teen Court is a legally binding alternative system of justice that offers young offenders an opportunity to make restitution for their offenses through community service, educational classes, and jury service, avoiding fines and sentences handed down by the criminal justice system. A youth referred to Teen Court has his/her case argued by teenage prosecuting and defense attorneys before a jury of peers, consisting of volunteers from Socorro Independent School District secondary schools and returning youth who were previously defendants. The teen jury determines each defendant's sentence based on the nature of the offense committed.