

The Focus

CONTRIBUTED STORY
FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Programming leader King World Productions, Inc. adds a new dimension to the popular courtroom genre with Curtis Court, a lively new daily half-hour series making its premiere Monday, September 11 and airing, primarily in daytime, on stations representing more than 82 percent of the U.S. It is also being sold worldwide by CBS Broadcast International.

The series' core – both creatively and emotionally – is The Honorable James Curtis, an award-winning California prosecutor who is also known to viewers nationally as a frequent network television commentator on legal issues. Emmy Award-winning Executive Producer Mary Duffy and a production team coming from top-rated court and talk programming have created a courtroom series shaped around Curtis' strengths while adding new elements to the popular genre, including expert witnesses, examination of evidence (often

Curtis Court shows human side of authority

taking Curtis out on location) and an emphasis on newsmaking cases from around the country.

For instance, one episode featured Dr. Joyce Brothers offering expert opinion in the case of a day-care teacher who sued a child's parents. A local fire chief was brought in to provide testimony in another case involving an exploding car that, in turn, set a nearby apartment building on fire. An entire town became involved when the Mayor of Millville, NE came to Curtis Court to help resolve a troublesome community dispute. Other cases feature polygraph examiners, policemen and firemen.

Evidence that has come under Curtis' judicial eye has included a litter of puppies, an engagement ring and even a race horse (which took Curtis out to the farm to determine the steed's age). And courtroom spectators are recruited as "Curtis Court Witnesses" to go on-location and examine physical

evidence, bringing back their report. Tying all these innovative aspects together is Curtis who, along with a decade of experience, brings wisdom, compassion, fairness and a definite sense of humor to the role. "Without being entertaining, we wouldn't be on the air," he notes, "but I'm equally focused on enabling people to understand the process and to make things better with it."

Taped in New York City, each episode features two real-life cases with actual litigants; they cover small claims cases, family disputes and feuding roommates, in-laws and friends requiring mediation. Cases come from county courthouses around the U.S., uncovered by an extensive network of researchers throughout the country, and chosen based on their individuality, unusual twists, unexpected elements and, even, fun. An additional emphasis is put on cases making headlines in local markets and, often, the nation.



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For more information, call Galore Paging at 288-9180.

Immediately following performance at 11:30 p.m., there will be an official meet and greet with the Dolemite man himself at 915 SW. 2nd Ave. in downtown at "Da Club."

Sponsored by Mind Elevation Inc., Pierre Productions and The Portland Observer.

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