

# NEWS RELEASE

## SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA

### COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

400 McAllister Street, Room 205  
San Francisco, CA 94102-4512  
Phone: 415-551-5737  
FAX: 415-551-5701



**T. MICHAEL YUEN**  
COURT EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Contact:

**Ann E. Donlan**  
**(415) 551-5957**  
[adonlan@sftc.org](mailto:adonlan@sftc.org)  
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## **SAN FRANCISCO SUPERIOR COURT BENCH ELECTS NEW ASSISTANT PRESIDING JUDGE**

***Judge Teri L. Jackson is the first African American Female to Serve as APJ in SF***

**SAN FRANCISCO** -- Presiding Judge Cynthia Ming-mei Lee today announced the San Francisco Bench has elected Judge Teri L. Jackson to serve as the incoming Assistant Presiding Judge of the San Francisco Superior Court.

Judge Jackson, a member of the San Francisco Bench since September 2002, is the first African American female to serve as Assistant Presiding Judge in the City & County of San Francisco.

"I am honored that my colleagues expressed their confidence in my leadership and judicial experience," Judge Jackson said. "I look forward to joining with incoming Presiding Judge John K. Stewart to lead the San Francisco Superior Court as we continue to recover from historic budget cuts and seek to provide access to justice for San Franciscans in spite of the ongoing fiscal challenges."

Judge Jackson said she would continue to devote her energy, dedication, commitment and collegiality to her new Assistant Presiding Judge duties. "Our judicial officers and staff exhibit

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some of the highest qualities, skills and attributes of any Court in this state,” she said. “I want to keep our Court moving forward and provide a judicial environment in which everyone has a role and opportunity to participate.”

Judge Jackson added that the uncertain economic times for the state judiciary require “all of our participation, expertise, experiences and professional relationships to continue to provide our citizens with fair and competent access to justice.”

Judge Jackson has served in numerous leadership positions within the Court and statewide.

Within the Court, Judge Jackson served from 2009-2012 on the Court’s Appellate Panel, which decides appeals from Misdemeanor, Traffic and Limited Civil Jurisdiction cases. She has served on the Personnel, Local Rules, Adult Probation Oversight and Technology committees. She also is the Chair of the Civil Grand Jury Committee, a position she has held since 2013.

Since October 2011, Judge Jackson has presided over the asbestos and CEQA Department at the Civic Center Courthouse in San Francisco. During this time, Judge Jackson oversaw a collaborative 6-month process to update and streamline 150 asbestos General Orders into a new 16-page Case Management Order that now serves as a model for other courts throughout the state. Earlier this year, she introduced the Trial Management Order, which is designed to assist the trial Judge assigned to an asbestos trial with multiple defendants. She previously presided over civil and criminal trials.

Prior to her civil assignments, Judge Jackson served at the Hall of Justice for nine years where she presided over criminal and misdemeanor trials, as well as preliminary hearings. In 2008, she was one of 22 Judges selected by the Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court to sit in Riverside County on a special Criminal Backlog Reduction Task Force. The task force was able to resolve more than 1,000 backlogged criminal cases in one year.

Chief Justice Ronald M. George appointed Judge Jackson to serve as an advisory member of the Judicial Council, and in June 2011, Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye appointed her to become a voting member of the Judicial Council. Her term expired earlier this month.

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The Chief Justice recently appointed Judge Jackson to serve on two advisory committees for the Judicial Council: Providing Access and Fairness, and Financial Accountability and Efficiency for the Judicial Branch.

Among all of these duties, Judge Jackson also has found time to teach and speak to multiple community groups. She is an Adjunct Professor at University of California, Hastings College of the Law and the University of San Francisco School of Law.

Judge Jackson is a member of numerous professional associations, including the California Judges Association and the Northern California Association of Business Trial Lawyers. She is a participant in the Young Lawyers' Mentorship Program of the Bar Association of San Francisco and a member of a community-based Mural, Music and Art in the Bay Area inner-cities. She also served as a former member of the Judicial Council CALCRIM Advisory Committee, the American Inn of Court USF; American Inn of Court Edward J. McFetridge; mentor in the Young Scholars Program of the San Francisco Unified School District; and as a longtime participant in the American Bar Association Judicial Intern Opportunity Program.

In March 2008, Judge Jackson was the recipient of the Madam C.J. Walker Pioneer Award. She earned recognition in September 2007 from the National Council of Negro Women, Inc. In April 2006, she received the A. Philip Randolph Institute Roseina Tucker Award.

Prior to her judicial appointment, Judge Jackson was an attorney for nearly five years with Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe, LLP, in San Francisco, where she specialized in complex litigation, employment defense, real estate, trade secrets, bankruptcy and white-collar defense in federal and state courts.

Before going into private practice, Judge Jackson served as an Assistant District Attorney in the Office of the San Francisco District Attorney. From May 1984 until November 1997, she held numerous positions, including Managing Attorney of the Homicide, Domestic Violence and Misdemeanor units.

Presiding Judge Lee said Judge Jackson's enthusiasm, dedication, energy and experience

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will serve the Court well.

“Judge Jackson is an extraordinarily hard worker, who consistently excels in her endeavors,” Presiding Judge Lee said. “She is skilled at building consensus amid disorder. Her in-depth knowledge of the financial complexities of the judicial branch and our Court will be of great benefit. We are fortunate to have the team of incoming Presiding Judge Stewart and Assistant Presiding Judge Jackson for 2015-2016.”

Judge Stewart and Judge Jackson will begin their terms as Presiding Judge and Assistant Presiding Judge, respectively, on January 1, 2015.

A graduate of the University of California, Santa Cruz, Judge Jackson earned her J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center.

The San Francisco Superior Court Bench is comprised of 52 Judges and one Commissioner.

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