

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
Follow Us on Twitter:
<https://twitter.com/SFSuperiorCourt>

RELEASE DATE: October 5, 2016

SAN FRANCISCO SUPERIOR COURT BENCH ELECTS FIRST FEMALE AFRICAN AMERICAN JUDGE TO SERVE AS PRESIDING JUDGE

Judge Teri L. Jackson, Former Judicial Council Member, Ran Unopposed for 2-Year Term

SAN FRANCISCO -- Presiding Judge John K. Stewart today announced the San Francisco Bench has elected Judge Teri L. Jackson to serve as the incoming Presiding Judge of the San Francisco Superior Court, effective January 1, 2017.

Judge Jackson, a member of the San Francisco Bench since September 2002, made history last night when her judicial colleagues elected her to serve as the first female African American Judge Presiding Judge in the City & County of San Francisco.

"The San Francisco bench reflects the diversity of our City and the entire Bay Area, and we are fortunate to have such a diverse, energetic and innovative group of Judges to assure equal and fair access to justice for all people who use our courts," Judge Jackson said. "Together we share a commitment to assure that all San Franciscans are served justly and fairly in our justice system."

Judge Jackson said she aims to achieve a "one-court" approach to justice in San Francisco that would promote more efficiency and access to justice across the justice system. The goal is to

-MORE-

PJ ELECTION/SFSC
2-2-2-2

give San Franciscans more opportunity to be heard – no matter the Judge, staff or courthouse location. Judges and staff would be available and proficient in their adjudication and handling of Civil or Criminal matters in either the Hall of Justice or Civic Center Courthouse.

“Our judicial officers and staff have some of the best 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 that allows more flexibility to handle various case types.”

Judge Jackson added that the continued 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 efficient access to justice.”

Throughout her judicial career, Judge Jackson has served in numerous leadership positions within the Court and statewide, most recently as Assistant Presiding Judge for two years and member of the Executive Committee. She currently is the Supervising Judge of the Criminal courts, where she has presided for 10 months in Department 22, the Court’s Criminal master calendar. Judge Jackson’s current assignment marks her second time at the Hall of Justice, where she previously presided for nine years over Criminal and Misdemeanor trials, as well as Preliminary Hearings.

Judge Jackson also has served in these Court assignments:

- Asbestos and CEQA Department between October 2011 and January 2016. During this time, she oversaw a collaborative 6-month process to update and streamline 150 asbestos General Orders into a new 16-page Case Management Order that serves as a model for other courts throughout the state. During this assignment, she introduced the Trial Management Order, which assists the trial Judge assigned to an Asbestos trial with multiple defendants. Both orders were ultimately codified into the Court’s Local Rules.
- Appellate Panel in 2009-2012, which decides appeals from Misdemeanor, Traffic and Limited Civil Jurisdiction cases;
- Personnel, Local Rules, Adult Probation Oversight and Technology committees, and as the

-MORE-

PJ ELECTION/SFSC
3-3-3-3

former Chair of the Civil Grand Jury Committee; and

- Civil trials.

Judge Jackson's leadership and expertise also has led to numerous statewide judicial appointments and assignments.

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.

Two years later, 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 G. Cantil-Sakauye appointed her as a voting member of the Judicial Council. Her term expired in 2014.

The Chief Justice also appointed Judge Jackson to serve on the Advisory Committee on Financial Accountability and Efficiency for the Judicial Branch; Advisory Committee on Providing Access & Fairness; Trial Court Presiding Judges Advisory Committee (TCPJAC)/Court Executives Advisory Committee (CEAC); and as a liaison to the Court Facilities Subcommittee.

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 was 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.

-MORE-

PJ ELECTION/SFSC
4-4-4-4

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.

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 two Commissioners.

###