

NEWS RELEASE

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San Francisco Superior Court Launches Its Judicial Officer Mentor Program In Collaboration With The Statewide California Judicial Mentor Program

San Francisco - San Francisco Superior Court Presiding Judge Sam Feng and Assistant Presiding Judge Anne-Christine Massullo announce the formation of its Judicial Officer Mentor Program in collaboration with the statewide California Judicial Mentor Program which is an undertaking between the Office of Governor Gavin Newsom and the judicial branch. The San Francisco Judicial Officer Mentor Program will connect mentor judges with attorneys interested in a judicial career to increase the applicant pool for new judges statewide. The program intends to bring the state closer to the Governor and judicial branch's shared goal of appointing judges reflective of the rich diversity of the state. Presiding Judge Feng stated, "We look forward to working with the legal community to encourage and support qualified applicants seeking judicial appointments. We share and honor the commitment to a diverse and inclusive judiciary." He added, the program "is a critical step to ensuring equal access to judicial mentorship for attorneys considering applying to the bench."

The program pairs local attorneys interested in applying to the bench with mentor judges. According to San Francisco Judge Russ Roeca, chair of the San Francisco Judicial Mentor Committee, "the program will help demystify the judicial appointment process and answer questions about the application and vetting process." Participation in the program is not a guarantee of an appointment nor a prerequisite in the application process.

The program will work with local bar associations, nonprofit legal organizations, government lawyers, law firms, and solo practitioners to identify and encourage promising judicial candidates to apply for appointment. The program is designed to increase the applicant pool of candidates, connect lawyers with mentor judges who understand the judicial selection process, and who can provide guidance to lawyers seeking to become judicial officers in all 58 counties.

The California Judicial Mentor Program has also initiated an Appellate Court Mentor Program with a pilot in the First District Court of Appeal in San Francisco.

To learn more about the San Francisco Judicial Officer Mentor Program, visit the San Francisco Superior Court's website at www.sfsuperiorcourt.org.

