

Superior Court of California County of Santa Clara

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Court Seeks Candidates for Public Watchdog Agency *Recruitment begins for 2020-2021 Civil Grand Jury panel*

SAN JOSÉ, California (January 2, 2020): Presiding Judge Deborah A. Ryan has announced that the Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara, is seeking volunteers to serve on the 2020-2021 Civil Grand Jury.

The Civil Grand Jury, an arm of the Superior Court, is a part of the judicial branch of government. It serves as the county's civil watchdog agency and may examine all aspects of county and city government, special districts, and school districts. It is authorized to inspect and audit books, records, and financial expenditures, to ensure accountability of public funds. The Grand Jury may also inspect jails and juvenile detention facilities.

Grand Jury service affords citizens the unique opportunity to contribute to the efficiency of local government and to play an integral part in ensuring that government officials are accountable to residents.

Applicants must be 18 years of age or older, United States citizens, and residents of Santa Clara County. Service on the Grand Jury does require a time commitment of an average of 25 hours per week, or as determined by the Grand Jury. Candidates must be willing to dedicate this year of service to keep careful watch over various aspects of County government, and the one-year term of the 2020-2021 panel will begin on June 18, 2020.

"The Civil Grand Jury plays an important watchdog function for Santa Clara County. It is vitally important that we have a diverse group of people with different experiences, skills and abilities who are willing to assume the important task of serving on the grand jury," said Presiding Judge Deborah A. Ryan. "We need civic minded citizens willing to critically assess the operations of local governmental entities and to recommend improvements, as necessary, to benefit our community. We are grateful to past and present grand jurors for their tremendous service and seek others who are similarly interested in serving this capacity for the 2020-2021 Civil Grand Jury."

Persons interested in applying may obtain an application online at www.scscourt.org under "Civil Grand Jury". Questions about informational events or about the Grand Jury may be directed to CGJ@scscourt.org or by contacting Britney Huelbig, Deputy Manager for the Civil Grand Jury, at 408-882-2721.

The deadline to submit applications is April 1, 2020.

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