



News Release

Superior Court of California

County of San Francisco

CONTACT:

Ann E. Donlan
415.551.5957
adonlan@sftc.org

Gordon Park-Li, Chief Executive Officer

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SAN FRANCISCO SUPERIOR COURT SEEKS VOLUNTEERS FOR CIVIL GRAND JURY

SAN FRANCISCO -- The San Francisco Superior Court is accepting applications for Civil Grand Jury service for the 2009-2010 term, Presiding Judge James J. McBride announced today.

"Serving as a watchdog with authority to investigate San Francisco City and County agencies, departments and officials is a unique public service opportunity," Judge McBride said. "During these investigations, the Grand Jury may interview public officials, conduct audits and inspect government facilities before making public recommendations for reforms."

California is among a handful of states that have grand juries at the county level. In California, the state Constitution requires each County to have at least one grand jury empanelled at all times.

"Volunteering for grand jury service is a meaningful way to shed light on ways the City and County could operate more efficiently," said Jack McNulty, President of the San Francisco Chapter of the California Grand Jurors' Association. "The grand jury panel has the authority to decide what governance issues it would like to investigate during the term."

The application deadline is April 17, 2009. Eligibility requires applicants to be U.S. citizens who are at least 18 years old. Applicants also must have lived in the City and

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**SFSC/Civil Grand Jury
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County for at least one year, among other requirements.

Visit www.sfgov.org/courts, and click on the Civil Grand Jury link for more information about the Civil Grand Jury and to obtain an application. Contact Court Supervisor Gary Giubbini at 415.551.3605 (weekdays between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.) or by email at ggiubbini@sftc.org.

The Civil Grand Jury's upcoming term runs from July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010. After initial screening, eligible applicants are interviewed before Superior Court judges select a pool of 30 jurors. The 19 members of the grand jury are then selected randomly, with the remaining 11 individuals serving as alternates.

Generally, applicants must be prepared to devote at least 15 hours per week to Civil Grand Jury service. The entire panel typically meets at the Civic Center Courthouse from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Mondays, and separate committee meetings are scheduled as necessary. Members receive a \$15 per diem for each meeting attended during the term.

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