



# News Release

## Superior Court of California

### County of San Francisco

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## **CIVIL GRAND JURY APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE FOR GOVERNMENT WATCHDOGS**

**SAN FRANCISCO** -- The San Francisco Superior Court is accepting applications for Civil Grand Jury service for the 2010-2011 term, Presiding Judge James J. McBride announced today.

"I encourage eligible San Franciscans to devote their time to this essential public service," Judge McBride said. "Participation in the Civil Grand Jury permits citizens to look into the operation of our government and make important public recommendations for improvement."

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.

"Serving on the Grand Jury for a year gives San Francisco citizens the opportunity to make recommendations for improvements in the City and County of San Francisco and address the inefficiencies in government operations," said Beate Boultinghouse, President of the San Francisco Chapter of the California Grand Jurors' Association. "In light of the current tough economic times, the role of the citizen watchdog is especially significant."

**The application deadline is April 16, 2010.** 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.sfsuperiorcourt.org](http://www.sfsuperiorcourt.org) and click on the Civil Grand Jury link for more information about the Civil Grand Jury and to obtain an application. For more information, 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](mailto:ggiubbini@sftc.org).

The Civil Grand Jury's upcoming term runs from July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011. 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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