



# News Release

## Superior Court of California

### County of San Francisco

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**Release Date:**

June 22, 2010

### **SAN FRANCISCO SUPERIOR COURT JUDGES ELECT KATHERINE FEINSTEIN TO SERVE AS PRESIDING JUDGE**

**SAN FRANCISCO** -- San Francisco Superior Court Judge Katherine Feinstein, an experienced leader and member of the San Francisco Bench for 10 years, will serve a two-year term as the Presiding Judge of the San Francisco Superior Court, effective January 1, 2011.

Members of the San Francisco Superior Court Bench unanimously voted today to elect Judge Feinstein to the two-year term. She will replace Judge James J. McBride, whose term as Presiding Judge ends on December 31, 2010.

"There are difficult days ahead for judicial officers, staff and the public in an era of reduced state funding," Judge Feinstein said. "I would like to thank Judge McBride for his courageous, determined and transparent leadership in developing and implementing the solutions we have relied on in the past two years to manage the loss of \$13.2 million in state funding. I would also like to extend those thanks to members of the executive management team, who have worked tirelessly to keep the Court functioning at its best under difficult circumstances."

Judge Feinstein, who was appointed by Gov. Gray Davis to the San Francisco Superior Court in June 2000 and has served for nearly two years as the Court's Assistant Presiding Judge, also thanked her colleagues for their support. "The San Francisco Superior Court is comprised of experienced and dedicated jurists for whom I have great respect," she

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**Judge Feinstein/SFSC**  
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said. "I look forward to their continued cooperation, dedication and leadership when I begin my term as Presiding Judge."

The Presiding Judge (PJ), with the assistance of the Court Executive Officer, is responsible for leading the Court, establishing policies, and allocating resources "in a manner that promotes access to justice for all members of the public," according to California Rule of Court 10.603.

The Presiding Judge serves as Chair of the Court's Executive Committee and ensures the effective management and administration of the Court. The PJ assigns judicial officers, designates supervising Judges for divisions, and calls and chairs meetings of the Judges. The PJ also is authorized to direct expenditures from the Court's Trial Court Operations Fund.

Judge Feinstein currently presides over civil jury trials. Within the San Francisco Superior Court, she has held a number of leadership positions, including Supervising Judge of the Unified Family Court (UFC) in 2004 and 2005, and Chair of the Court's Personnel Committee. In addition to her administrative duties within the Court, she currently serves as a California Supreme Court appointee to the Commission on Judicial Performance.

In Unified Family Court, Judge Feinstein presided over juvenile dependency, delinquency and family law cases, as well as the Youth Family Violence Court. In 2001, Judge Feinstein founded the SF SQUIRES program, which pairs adjudicated delinquents with mentor inmates serving life sentences at San Quentin State Prison. She also served as Chair of the Mayor's Taskforce on Log Cabin Ranch School and as Co-Chair of the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. Judge Feinstein also served as a calendar and trial judge in the Criminal Division at the Hall of Justice in 2008.

The San Francisco Superior Court Bench is comprised of 52 Judges and 12 Commissioners.

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