T. Michael Yuen Takes the CEO Helm



Assistant Presiding Judge Katherine Feinstein delivers the oath of office to new Court Executive Officer T. Michael Yuen.

Surrounded by his family and staff, T. Michael Yuen took the oath of office as Court Executive Officer during a Sept. 3 swearing-in ceremony officiated by Assistant Presiding Judge Katherine Feinstein.

Yuen took the oath in Department 210 at the Civic Center Courthouse after receiving the unanimous approval of the San Francisco Superior Court Bench on August 24, 2010.

"It's a really very special day for the San Francisco Superior Court, certainly for me and I know certainly for all of you," Judge Feinstein told the guests before delivering the oath to Yuen. "I am honored to be the person who has the opportunity to tend to this bit of Court business because come January, I will be the Presiding Judge."

Judge Feinstein added, "Mike really comes to us at a difficult time. But he comes to us with an expertise, a background of freshness, newness, a strategy, cleverness and a wonderful sense of humor – which is very important to me. He is going to take our Court to heights that we never thought we would ever achieve. And I think we are going to achieve those heights under Mike's leadership despite the difficult budget climate. I feel very fortunate that I am going to have him to depend on to help me. "

T. Michael Yuen, continued on page 4

Column

 Presiding Judge James J. McBride

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San Francisco Superior Court Bench Elects Judge Feinstein to Serve as Next Presiding Judge

San Francisco
Superior Court Judge
Katherine Feinstein, an
experienced leader and
member of the San
Francisco Bench for
10 years, will serve as
the Presiding Judge of



the San Francisco Superior Court, effective January 1, 2011.

Members of the San Francisco Superior Court Bench unanimously voted in June to elect Judge Feinstein to the twoyear 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 said. "I look forward to their continued cooperation, dedication and leadership when I begin my term as Presiding Judge."

Courtside

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

James J. McBride Presiding Judge

Katherine Feinstein Assistant Presiding Judge

T. Michael Yuen Court Executive Officer

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Judge James J. McBride, Chair

Judge Susan Breall

Judge Katherine Feinstein

Judge Loretta M. Giorgi

Judge Charles F. Haines

Judge Kathleen Kelly

Judge Cynthia Ming-mei Lee

Judge Patrick J. Mahoney

Judge Richard B. Ulmer, Jr.

Commissioner Sue M. Kaplan

EDITOR

Ann E. Donlan

About this Publication

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of the Court's Judicial Officers and staff.
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staff, Judicial Officers and Court
professionals throughout California.

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Presiding Judge



James J. McBride

Reflections of a Great Recession-Era Presiding Judge

he past two years have been difficult and challenging for this Court. The new norm is a severely reduced budget, and all have been required to do more with less. Through it all, I have been extremely proud as I witnessed the Court rise to the challenge and do remarkable work maintaining our high standard of service to the public. By now, we are all realizing that this budget crisis is not going away

but rather reflects an enduring adjustment to austerity.

Having weathered the last two budget years, I have great confidence that we have the leadership, the people and the wherewithal to persevere through whatever we face in the future. I believe that the pride we all take in being a part of the San Francisco Superior Court will sustain our commitment to maintain and improve our excellent standards. I do not underestimate the price exacted from each of us as we dealt with increased work and constant uncertainty, especially those who have labored under the threat of layoff. Early on, the leadership of the Court placed the highest priority on preserving our valuable work force — and so far we have been successful. We continue to maintain this goal as a priority along with our fundamental commitment to serve the public well.

In adapting gracefully and well to the new austerity, all have been called on to do more work and give up what was once taken for granted. Judges have done without training costs, research lawyers and even books. So far we have survived in large part because we froze hiring in April 2009, and our current workforce has diminished 14 percent through attrition. For those who remain with us in the clerk's office, the result is more work for fewer and fewer. The Court reporters have adjusted rapidly to the new reality that requires them to cover the same number of courts with fewer reporters. The list of impacts is long and the needs are many as we enter our third year of the new normal, but the successes of the past two years outnumber the reverses inflicted on us by the budget.

Out of this adversity, some substantial successes have blossomed. We have simultaneously made changes to save money and developed ways to manage our caseload more effectively. For example, we transferred bail duties to the San Francisco Sheriff's Department which set the stage for the Court to eliminate the swing and weekend shifts at the Hall of Justice for a savings of more than \$80,000. We installed VOIP and have realized an annual savings in telephone costs of \$686,354. We have begun to make changes in the culture of the Hall of Justice by assigning felony settlements to a single department. The result has been more cases settling earlier in the process, a goal that has long eluded us.

At CCC, we have transformed the civil trial calendar in January by assigning all asbestos cases to a single pre-trial department. There has been a 72.7 percent decrease in the number of asbestos cases ordering jurors and a 74.4 percent decrease in the number of jurors sent for asbestos cases. Since January, 94 percent settled before being assigned to a trial department. This enormous success is due to Judge Harold E. Kahn, Pang Ly, Asbestos Litigation Settlement Manager, and other Judges and staff who have contributed to this successful reform. We are now able to deal with the other matters on the civil docket and we have dramatically reduced the number of cases continued for lack of a courtroom.

During my tenure, I have been privileged to work with an exceptional group of people who went far beyond the call of duty in steering the Court through some very uncertain times. Claire A. Williams filled in as CEO during one of the more tumultuous times I can remember. Also Michael Yuen, former CFO and now our CEO, Gordon Park-Li, retired CEO, and Katherine Feinstein, Assistant Presiding Judge, were tireless and unstinting in their efforts on behalf of the Court.

I also sincerely appreciate the efforts of staff who have been the catalyst and architect of changes that have the potential to save the Court thousands of dollars or significantly improve service to the public. These are just a few examples:

James J. McBride, continued on page 3

continued from page 2

- Tim Lavorini meticulously studied the Court's document storage needs and charges — which has led the Court to save money in the short term while seeking a Request for Proposal for document storage, with the goal of saving a significant amount of money in the future.
- Two years ago, Senior Court Staff
 Attorney Kristin Hoadley developed the
 examiner program, in which clerks under
 her direction assist self-represented
 litigants in the accurate completion of
 their documents in Family Law cases.
 Prior to its implementation, on too many
 occasions, temporary orders would be
 denied because the litigants failed to
 provide the Court with sufficient
 information to make a decision. This
 is no longer the case.
- The Traffic Division has been under increased scrutiny from outside the Court. But Nicole Olcomendy Adams has steadfastly and professionally represented the Court and our interests with City departments and others, which is the perfect example of the kind of transparency and accountability that have been paramount during my term.
- Without the grant-writing prowess of ADR Administrator Jeniffer Alcantara, the Court would not have had the opportunity to hire Ms. Ly for the asbestos department, whose salary is paid for by an AOC grant.

After almost two years as Presiding Judge, I have worked with a lot of people I did not know before and I learned a lot about the Court. I came to this position with a very high opinion of the quality of our Court and, after two years, I will leave with an even better opinion. Being able to say that I am the Presiding Judge of that Court is a powerful source of pride. I will leave the Office of Presiding Judge feeling I have gained more than I have given but proud nonetheless to have contributed at all.

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James J. McBride Presiding Judge

Court Honors Service of Temporary Judges



ore than 30 Temporary Judges joined Presiding Judge James J. McBride and other members of the San Francisco Bench for a formal reception to honor their service to the Court.

The Appreciation Reception, organized by Training Director and Temporary Judge Program Administrator Brandon E. Riley, was held May 3 in the Jury Assembly Room at the Civic Center Courthouse. Judges and Commissioners mingled with the Temporary Judges and thanked them for their service to the Court.

"You richly deserve all recognition that we can give you," Judge McBride told the guests of honor before they received Certificates of Appreciation.

Judge McBride emphasized the contribution of the Temporary Judges, which provide critical support to Family Law, Small Claims, Small Claims Appeals, Unlawful Detainers and Traffic. Last year, they heard more than 8,000 matters in the Court.

"I know why you're here," Judge McBride said. "It's not for the recognition. It's certainly not for the money. It's serving the Court and the people who come to Court."



Judge James J.
McBride and
Claire A. Williams
recognize the
service of a
Temporary Judge.



Judge Marla J. Miller and Judge Loretta Giorgi with Temporary Judge Roger Rubin.

The Temporary Judge Program utilizes a panel of qualified, experienced and trained attorneys who volunteer their time to serve in various divisions of the Court as Temporary Judges. A "Court-appointed Temporary Judge" is an attorney who has satisfied the requirements for appointment listed in California Rules of Court 2.812, and has been appointed by the Court to serve as a Temporary Judge.

Last year, Temporary Judges handled 940 Family Law matters; 300 Small Claims cases; 180 Small Claims Appeals; 5,650 Traffic matters; and 1,150 Unlawful Detainers.

"There's a lot of people carrying a big load that we can't carry," Judge McBride said. "I'd like to thank you all on behalf of the Superior Court. The work you do can never be recognized enough."

After Judge McBride handed out the certificates, Riley recognized the members of the San Francisco Bench who attended the reception.

About 300 pro-tems serve as Temporary Judges in the San Francisco Superior Court. The reception was intended to honor those who serve most often, including some who volunteered between 15 and 46 days last year.

continued from page 1

Deadly San Bruno Fire Inspires Court Employees to Donate Blood

ourt employees looking for a way to help in the aftermath of the tragic San Bruno gas explosion that killed eight people and injured more than 50 others eagerly gave blood at the Civic Center Courthouse (CCC) on Sept. 16.

The Court's blood drive already was scheduled before the Sept. 9 disaster. But after the fire leveled the Crestmoor Canyon neighborhood, other Civic Center employees who wanted to help in the wake of the tragedy decided to organize a blood drive at 455 Golden Gate Ave. However, when those employees, including Peggy Kamberg of the Department of General Services, found out about the Court's already-scheduled blood drive, they worked with Barbara Compton and Blood Centers of the Pacific to expand the drive by adding a mobile unit on McAllister Street. At the Mobile Unit, 26 units of blood were collected while the donors in Room 617 gave 35 units.

All 60 appointments at the Civic Center Courthouse were booked, although some donors who tried to give blood were not allowed to participate for various reasons. Typically the Court books 20 appointments during its three scheduled yearly blood drives.

Overwhelming Response

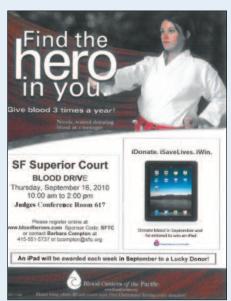
"We've been overwhelmed with people responding," said Christina Mihalas, Field Recruitment Supervisor for Blood Centers of the Pacific. "People come out of the woodwork when there is a tragedy."

Compton said the San Bruno disaster was part of the reason why she felt strongly about donating blood. She tries to give regularly, but has been rejected at times because her iron was too low. However, this time, she got the green light.

"I try to give at each of our blood drives and felt better that I could help out especially at this time by giving the gift of life in addition to making a monetary contribution to the City of San Bruno," Compton said.

Carlos Murillo, a Deputy Court Clerk II in Appeals, says he typically donates once a year and takes advantage of the blood drives held at CCC.

"There's a sense of community with the



Bay Area," Murillo said. "So when you have a disaster like this, or an earthquake or the Oakland fires, you do what you can to help. When they mentioned on the news that they needed blood, I didn't hesitate."

Murillo added that he feels a sense of relief knowing that he did his part for any patient who may need A+, his blood type. "I always think, 'How horrible if someone needed blood and they didn't have blood for that person.' I'm sure they probably have a surplus of A+ blood, but you just never know."

Mihalas said it is important for people to remember that when tragedy strikes, "It's definitely going to be the blood on the shelves that already has been tested that is going to help people who are hurt immediately."

The Bay Area typically does not have enough blood stockpiled to meet the demands of local hospitals, which requires officials to import blood from elsewhere, Mihalas said.

"We're actually in pretty good shape but that could change in a month after everything settles down," she said. "Our inventory levels are pretty good right now, exclusively due to the San Bruno incident."

For more information about blood donation, visit http://bloodcenters.ehclients.com/.

All Rise features stories of inspiration and leadership involving Court staff.

Yuen thanked Judge Feinstein, who said she also was representing Presiding Judge James J. McBride who was unable to attend, for swearing him in to his new duties as the Court's third CEO since all Courts voted to unify in 2001. He also thanked his wife and children for attending the ceremony and for their support.

"...Thank you for the excellent job that you do day in and day out."

"I realize that it is my challenge to take office in a difficult time and try to find a way to move the Court to a place where we can continue to provide service to the public, yet have it be a sustainable model of service commitment," Yuen said. "And that's easier said than done. But I also realize that with the dedicated staff we have here today, that we can get it done and that together we can be successful. So thank you for being here. Thank you for the excellent job that you do day in and day out."

Later in his remarks, Yuen thanked Claire A. Williams for serving as CEO for six months after Gordon Park-Li retired and during the subsequent CEO selection process.

"Claire has provided tremendous leadership over the last six months," Yuen said. "It was not the easiest time to be Court Executive Officer. But she got us through it. And if anything came out of those six months, it's that together we can achieve things that are beneficial for this Court. We don't know what Sacramento is going to do, but it looks like we are going to be able to weather at least this part of the storm."

Judge Feinstein echoed Yuen's praise for Williams' leadership. "Our thanks on behalf of the Judges to Claire for stepping in to fill a big void at a really terrible time and doing so with determination, grace and persistence. You've really stepped up to the plate. We thank you from a really heartfelt place deep in our hearts for doing this. Your work will not soon be forgotten."

Since his swearing-in, Yuen has told the management staff that accountability and efficiency are the cornerstones of his vision for the Court.

Game On: UFC Competes for Bocce Ball Title

EDITOR'S NOTE: Senior Court Staff Attorney Kristin Hoadley decided to organize the first annual UFC Bocce Ball Tournament during a recent walk across Civic Center Plaza, where she saw some people playing bocce ball, a favorite sport of hers for at least 10 years. So she pushed ahead with her plans, which means that on any given lunch hour, Civic Center Plaza is livened by a group of dust-covered UFC staff and members of the Bench trying to beat each other in a competetive game of bocce ball. The matches are played on the crushed granite in front of City Hall. Equipment is provided. The entrance fee is \$5 dollars per person to fund the grand prize (yet to be determined).

By Kristin Hoadley

I have played bocce ball at the City of Berkeley Echo Lake Family Camp every summer for the past 10 or so years. It's a great social game and anyone can play — even beginners. One day I was walking back from my daily coffee run, I happened to have a bit more caffeine than usual, and it was a sunny day, and I thought about starting a tournament. We talked about it in the Family Law Self Help Center at lunch and started coming up with teams and team names. We were having so much fun that I thought it would be great to invite all of UFC to join. I first ran it past Judge Patrick J. Mahoney and Claire A. Williams to make sure it was okay to send out a mass email to the UFC and they gave me the OK. I guess I thought it would be fun and a good break from our stressful hectic days, and it would get us outside and help us to bond.

I had to talk it up a bit and lightly twist some arms to convince people to join the tournament. Most people had never played before.

We have 16 two-person teams. The matches are held at lunch. A team has to win two 7-point games to advance. We held some practices before the matches started. By the end of the week of September 20, the 8 first-round matches were completed. The next round is four matches, then two, then the finals. The tournament will probably last about 4 weeks.

People seem to be really having fun. A recent match between Commissioner Rebecca Wightman and Commissioner Marjorie A. Slabach, and Liana Lee Manual and Rica Tauala was the closest so far and the most well-attended. Liana and Rica won in the last round of the third game. As the tournament has progressed, people are really getting into it. Ramoncito Borneo and Juliana Wong made red and blue flags to indicate which ball is closer to the Pallino and Carlos Ayala has invented a string set for the boundary.

I would be happy to consult with anyone who wants to organize another tournament in the other units. We can hold some practices and teach folks how to play.



Kristen may be reached at khoadley@sftc.org or 551.3992.

Claire A. Williams, Commissioner Abby Abinanti and Judge Patrick J. Mahoney watch intently as Commissioner Catherine Lyons takes her turn.

Training Director Brandon E. Riley Earns Certificate After 2-Year Program in Sacramento



Brandon E. Riley is shown with fellow graduates after a ceremony earlier this year.

Training Director Brandon E. Riley has earned a Certificate in Judicial Administration after successful completion of a 2-year program at California State University, Sacramento.

"I began working in the Judicial Branch after years of working in federal and local government programs," Riley told *Courtside*. "I came to the Judicial Branch with plenty of management experience and training. However, I soon recognized that managing in the Judicial Branch and the trial courts have added layers of complexity."

The program is among a handful of curriculums in the U.S. that offer graduate-level education in the judicial administration field. The Judicial Administration Program consists of 12 graduate units and four courses that focus on court governance, court management, court leadership and emerging issues in the Judicial Branch. The program is designed for highly motivated court leaders who aspire to executive-level positions within the Judicial Branch.

Riley said the program proved to be rigorous — especially since it had been 12 years since he had earned a Master's in public administration.

"The program was invaluable because it provided clear perspective for leading and managing with the Judicial Branch," he said. "The program enhanced my understanding of intergovernmental relations within the state of California, and the evolving relationship among the trial courts and the Administrative Office of the Courts."

Former CEO Claire A. Williams commended Riley for his accomplishment. "Brandon's achievement is an asset not only to himself, but to the Court as well."

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Judicial Council Recognizes Complex Litigation Program



San Francisco Superior Court's Complex Litigation Departments were recognized in a Judicial Council of California resolution.

At its April 23, 2010 meeting, the Judicial Council approved a resolution recognizing the 10th anniversary of the Complex Litigation Program and honoring the participating courts.

"We are very proud of the excellent work our Complex Litigation Judges and staff perform on a daily basis, and their recognition is well-deserved," Presiding Judge James J. McBride said.

The resolution is hanging in the Executive office in Rom 205, Civic Center Courthouse, as a testament to the excellence of our Complex Litigation departments. Judge Richard A. Kramer (Department 304) and John E. Munter (Department 305), and the staff in each department, comprise the Complex Litigation Departments in the San Francisco Superior Court.

In 1997, Supreme Court Chief Justice Ronald M. George appointed the Complex Litigation Task Force to study and make recommendations for ways to help trial courts manage complex litigation more effectively. The task force, according to the resolution, concluded that complex litigation cases are "unusual and require much greater management than other civil cases." The task force also found that a complex case should be assigned to one judge for all purposes.

Based on the recommendations of the task force, the Judicial Council established six centers for complex litigation in the Superior Courts of Alameda, Contra Costa, Los Angeles, Orange, San Francisco and Santa Clara counties.

Probate Court Investigators Host Successful Statewide Conference in San Francisco

By Shauna Gillespie-Ford

The California Association of Superior Court Investigators (CASCI), hosted by the Court Investigations Unit of the San Francisco Superior Court, had its annual training conference May 3-5, 2010, at the Holiday Inn Fisherman's Wharf in San Francisco.

Court Investigators and other professionals throughout the state attended and were overwhelmingly pleased with the accommodations, the speakers and the hospitality.



Probate Investigator
Jose Manuel Valenzuela
educates CASCI attendees.

The conference began with opening remarks from Mary Joy Quinn, Director of Probate; Commissioner Sue M. Kaplan of the Probate Department; and Judge Mary E. Wiss, also assigned to Probate.

The San Francisco Superior Court's Probate staff and other probate experts from the community added to the accomplished list of presenters. Quinn led two training sessions, one of which focused on Mediation in Conservatorships and Guardianships.

Commissioner Kaplan was a panelist for a discussion on the issues related to "Ex Parte Communications," which was facilitated by Marin County Court Investigator Pamela Williams. SF Probate Examiners Helen Yune Trowbridge and Timothy Kneis taught "Reading Between the Lines of an Accounting."

Local probate attorneys also shared their wisdom on guardianships, including Vicki Trapalis and Kathy Richards. G. Franchesca Callejo and Lawrence S. Siracusa spoke of their experiences as volunteer mediators in conservatorship and guardianship matters.

An indepth study of undue influence resulting in definitions and applications that, before now, have been absent from the Probate Code was undertaken by Quinn and her local co-laborers: Lisa Nerenberg, Elder Abuse Prevention Specialist; Eileen Goldman, LCSW; and Deana Piazza, Research Analyst, Center for Families, Children & Courts of the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC). The results of this study were presented during a workshop.

Other local presenters included Attorney Prescott Cole of California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform; Neil Granger, a specialist in elder abuse as it pertains to insurance and annuities; and Attorney Kimberly Papillion, an Education Specialist with the AOC, who focused on diversity.

One of the conference's highlights was the feast of delightful wine and hors d'oeuvres prepared by SF Court Investigator Sandra Esteves-Guidi.

Shauna Gillespie-Ford is a Court Investigator who at the time of the conference was Vice President of the CASCI.



Probate Examiner Tim Kneis shares his expertise during a conference for probate investigators.

California State Bar Committee Names Commissioner Slabach Judicial Officer of the Year

The Executive Committee of the Family Law Section (FLEXCOM) presented the Judicial Officer of the Year award to Commissioner Marjorie A. Slabach, Commissioner, Dept. 404, San Francisco Unified Family Law Court, due to her many years of service to the family law community and her dedication to family law.

The Family Law Judicial Officer of the Year Reception for Commissioner Slabach was held September 24, 2010, at the State Bar of California Annual Meeting in Monterey.

Commissioner Slabach began practicing law in 1983, became a Certified Family Law Specialist in 1992, and was appointed as a Commissioner in San Francisco's Family Law Department in 1997 where she has served ever since.

According to FLEXCOM,
Commissioner Slabach has been the
constant at the Unified Family Court in
San Francisco, helping to educate new
Judicial Officers about family law and



ensuring consistency within the Department. Commissioner Slabach's extensive substantive knowledge and experience is invaluable to family lawyers and parties in San Francisco.

"Commissioner Slabach has never hesitated to share her vast experience and wisdom," according to the FLEXCOM announcement. "She has volunteered as a speaker at countless continuing educational programs."

In addition, she "actively participates with the local family law bar, for instance regularly attending Family Law Section meetings. This dedication to the section and keeping its members informed inspires San Francisco practitioners, who regularly serve in volunteer capacities in various areas of the family court."

FLEXCOM also commended
Commissioner Slabach for a "good
working knowledge of the issues presented and case history, which is so critical for
good decision making. She also lends a
personal touch to her courtroom with her
regular opening remarks, which promote a
rational approach to the cases and help to
facilitate settlement."

Commissioner Slabach has "very much dedicated herself to family law and who has 'raised the bar' with respect to excellence in this profession," according to the announcement.

John D. Hodson, former Chairman of FLEXCOM, presents Commissioner Slabach with the Judicial Officer of the Year award.

Judge Morgan Receives Accolades for Domestic Violence Work

Judge Mary C. Morgan was honored by the San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women for her contributions to the movement to address domestic violence.

The Commission adopted a resolution at its regularly scheduled meeting on July 28 at City Hall.

"We appreciate very much your commitment to ensuring that the government response to domestic violence is fair, equitable, and well-informed," said Executive Director Emily Moto Murase.





Judge Donna J. Hitchens shares a laugh with Kate Kendall, Executive Director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights, and filmmakers Kim Klausner and Debra Chasnoff.

- Photo by Eva Moss for GroundSpark

Rescreening of 'Choosing Children' Documentary Demonstrates Landmark Contribution by Judge Hitchens

Bay Area organizations gathered for an emotional rescreening of the landmark documentary 'Choosing Children,' which chronicled the efforts of six lesbian couples to have children in the early 1980s.

The Sept. 14 fundraiser, held at the Herbst Theater in San Francisco, featured a rescreening of the 25-year-old documentary by filmmakers Debra Chasnoff and Kim Klausner. Judge Donna J. Hitchens, who was the thenattorney for the Lesbian Rights Project, is extensively interviewed in the film. The event was held to raise money to permanently preserve the film on DVD.

Judge Hitchens joined the filmmakers on stage for a discussion after the film's rescreening. The *Recorder's* BAR-ometer column noted that the film "puts in perspective the achievements of Hitchens and other lawyers who helped pioneer gay and lesbian adoption."

According to the National Center of Lesbian Rights (NCLR), "Choosing Children explores the then-almost-unheard-of idea that lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people could have children—after coming out—and helped launch the LGBT baby boom, opening up the possibilities for each of us to create our own definition of 'family.' Today... the notion of LGBT people as parents is—in many communities—no longer a radical idea."

Judge Hitchens is the founder of the NCLR.

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Chief Justice George Appoints New Coalition of Tribal and State Courts

Commissioner Abinanti to Serve on Coalition

ommissioner
Abby Abinanti
is a member of the
California Tribal
Court/State
Coalition, the first
organization of its
kind in the state.



Chief Justice

Ronald M. George made the appointments in May to the coalition, whose members are working to improve the relationship between California's tribal and state Courts and to focus on areas of mutual concern. Commissioner Abinanti is a member of the coalition in her role as the Chief Judge of the Yurok Tribal Court.

Members of the coalition include tribal court judges; state court judges; chairs of the Judicial Council's advisory committees on access and fairness, criminal law, civil and small claims, family and juvenile, and traffic; and the director of native American Affairs for the State Attorney General's Office.

Judge Wiley 'Turns 1'



Clerk Danial Lemire, Judge Monica F. Wiley and Court Reporter Katy
Bersamin share a moment together during Judge Wiley's "They Grow Up So Fast" celebration in Department 624. The lunchtime celebration was held in honor of Judge Wiley's first year on the San Francisco Bench.

Chief Justice Appoints Judge Jackson to Judicial Council

Chief Justice Ronald M. George has appointed Judge Teri L. Jackson to serve as an advisory member of the Judicial Council for a 3-year term, effective Sept. 15, 2010.

"We all share a sense of pride in the recent appointment of Judge Teri Jackson to an advisory seat on the Judicial Council," Presiding Judge James J. McBride said after the appointments were announced in June. "I know Judge Jackson will be an effective representative of our Court and all of the State's trial courts."



Chaired by the Chief Justice, the Judicial Council consists of 14 judicial members appointed by the Chief Justice, four attorney members appointed by the State Board of Governors, one member from each house of the Legislature, and 11 advisory members. Established by the state Constitution in 1926, the Judicial Council is responsible for ensuring the consistent, independent, impartial, and accessible administration of justice in the nation's largest court system.

San Francisco Superior Court Judge Ross Honored by Barristers Club at 26th Annual Judges Reception

The Barristers Club of The Bar Association of San Francisco presented its Tara L. Riedley Barristers Choice Award at the 26th Annual Judges Reception on July 13 to San Francisco Superior Court Judge Jeffrey S. Ross. This award is given each year to one Judge serving in San Francisco to recognize his or her extraordinary efforts to educate and encourage young lawyers that are new to the practice of law and the courtroom. In addition, the award recognizes work done outside the courtroom in support of programs of the Barristers Club.

Prior to joining the San Francisco
Bench in 2009, Judge Ross was a partner at
Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman. He was
co-leader of Pillsbury's Corporate
Investigations & White Collar Defense and
Health Care practice teams. Before joining
Pillsbury, he served as an associate, then
shareholder and president of Friedman,
Ross & Hersh from 1975 to 1999. He earned
a Juris Doctorate degree from Stanford Law
School and a Bachelor of Arts degree from
the University of Michigan.

Judge Ross has a long and distinguished history with The Bar Association of San Francisco (BASF). In 1983, he served as president of the Barristers Club and in 1997 he served as president of BASF. While BASF president, he co-founded the San Francisco Law Academy, a partnership between BASF



Judge Reception Chair Abigail Slonecker, Judge Jeffrey S. Ross and Barristers Club President Avin Sharma enjoy the celebration in honor of Judge Ross.

and the San Francisco Unified School
District. The program allows Mission and
Balboa High School students to work with
lawyer mentors and students are employed
as summer interns by San Francisco law
and public interest firms, companies and
government offices. Over the years, the Law
Academy has dramatically increased the
percentage of students attending 4-year
colleges. More recently Judge Ross has
been both a coach and volunteer judge for
the Barristers Mock Trial Program.

More than 300 members of the legal community, including 50 state and federal judges and their clerks, attended the Judges Reception, which was held in the Green Room of the San Francisco War Memorial and Performing Arts Center.

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