

Superior Court of California County of Santa Clara

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Court Seeks Candidates for Public Watchdog Agency *Recruitment begins for 2017-18 Civil Grand Jury panel*

SAN JOSE, Calif. (January 6, 2017): Presiding Judge, Hon. Patricia M. Lucas, has announced that the Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara is seeking volunteers to serve on the 2017-18 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 2017-18 panel will begin on June 22, 2017.

"It's vital that those who are charged with this incredible responsibility reflect the tremendous diversity that makes up Santa Clara County. First and foremost we're looking for civic mindedness, strong ethics, and courage, but we also need a mixed set of skills and abilities in our jurors so that we can assemble the deep reservoir of knowledge necessary in this broad oversight role," expressed Presiding Judge Lucas.

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 Tamara Davis, Deputy Manager of Jury Services, at 408-882-2721.

The deadline to submit applications is Thursday, March 30, 2017.

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