

Clerk of the Court
Superior Court of CA County of Santa Clara
BY David K. Walker

## SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA

## STANDING ORDER TO ALLOW FOR TEMPORARY JUDGE POLICY EXCEPTIONS

California Rule of Court 2.818(b) specifies limitations on attorneys acting as court-appointed temporary judges. Pursuant to Rule 2.818(b), an attorney may not serve as a court-appointed temporary judge: "(1) If the attorney, in any type of case, is appearing on the same day in the same courthouse as an attorney or as a party; (2) If the attorney, in the same type of case, is presently a party to any action or proceeding in the court; or (3) If, in a family law or unlawful detainer case, one party is self-represented and the other party is represented by an attorney or is an attorney." Subsection (b) also provides that, "[f]or good cause, the presiding judge may waive the limitations established in this subsection."

The Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara has historically relied on attorneys serving as temporary judges to enhance access to timely justice for the public. Since February 6, 2023, the Traffic Courthouse located in Santa Clara has been temporarily closed. Traffic calendars are now held in the Family Justice Center and South County courthouses, where criminal, civil, and family matters are also heard. Because of this, temporary judges who have matters on calendar in other divisions are effectively disqualified from presiding over a traffic calendar.

Rule 2.818(b) would place undue hardship on the Court's ability to recruit enough

1	temporary judges to adequately serve the public. Based on the above, the Court finds there is good
2	cause to waive the limitations in Rule 2.818(b)(1) for temporary judges in traffic matters. This
3	waiver applies to all traffic matters heard by temporary judges in Santa Clara County.
4	SO ORDERED.
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6	Dated: August 18, 2023
7	Presiding Judge Beth McGowen Santa Clara County Superior Court
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