

Why become a temporary judge?

Temporary judges play a vital role in serving the Santa Clara County Superior Court and the community it serves.

The appointment of attorneys as temporary judges assists the public by providing the Court with a panel of trained, qualified, and experienced attorneys able to perform judicial functions.

The Court is committed to fostering diversity and encourages all eligible individuals to apply to serve as a temporary judge.



Attorneys interested in serving as a temporary judge in Santa Clara County are encouraged to apply.

Email

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San José, CA 95113

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA

Temporary Judge Program



What is the Temporary Judge Program?

The Temporary Judge Program utilizes eligible attorneys to serve as Judicial Officers at the Superior Court. A “court-appointed temporary judge” is an attorney who has satisfied the requirements for appointment under the California Rules of Court, Rule 2.810-2.819.

Commitment

The Court asks that each temporary judge sign up for at least one assignment per year and maintain their educational requirements. Temporary judge coursework must be renewed every three years.



Educational Requirements



BENCH CONDUCT AND DEMEANOR

3 hours, live remote or in-person



JUDICIAL ETHICS

3 hours, online



SUBSTANTIVE TRAINING

Online or in-person.

- Civil, Family, Probate and/or Traffic (3 hours)
- Small Claims (5 hours)

The Court may require that an attorney possess additional years of practical experience in each substantive area. The Court intends that, for temporary judges serving in the civil, probate, and family divisions, the initial and continuing substantive training may be satisfied by the appropriate courses taken to fulfill the State Bar’s MCLE requirements.

Qualifications

- Complete the Court’s Temporary Judge Application and Placement Questionnaire;
- Complete at least ten years of membership in the State Bar of California;
- Be in good standing with the State Bar of California, with no record of discipline and no pending disciplinary proceeding;
- Have no criminal record of pleading guilty or no contest to a felony or conviction of a felony not reversed on appeal;
- Submit two letters of recommendation from professional colleagues;
- Complete all required training.

Appointment

Attorneys are appointed and serve as temporary judges solely at the discretion of the Presiding Judge.

Learn more and apply!

For more information and to access the online application, please visit <https://santaclara.courts.ca.gov/TJP>

