

NEWS RELEASE

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SAN FRANCISCO SUPERIOR COURT JUDGES SEEK CANDIDATES TO APPLY FOR THE CIVIL GRAND JURY

SAN FRANCISCO -- The San Francisco Superior Court is seeking volunteers for Civil Grand Jury service for the 2021-2022 term, Judge Susan M. Breall announced today.

“As chair of the Court’s Civil Grand Jury Committee, I would like to encourage San Franciscans who want to make a difference in our City to apply to become a member of the Civil Grand Jury,” said Judge Breall. “The Civil Grand Jury offers the opportunity to contribute to our community by examining City government to identify efficiencies, to suggest reforms or to highlight things that are not working well. This is a unique and exciting way to become involved in City affairs.”

Applications and more detailed information about the Civil Grand Jury are available at <http://civilgrandjury.sfgov.org/>.

The application deadline is **May 14, 2021**. In order to serve, volunteers must be U.S. citizens; at least 18 years of age; have lived in San Francisco for at least the past 12 months; have no felony convictions; and be able to communicate in English.

A requirement of the California Constitution, the Civil Grand Jury provides a “watchdog” function and has broad latitude to examine City departments, agencies and officials. The Civil

Grand Jury issues a report detailing its findings and recommendations. Each affected City department or official is required to formally respond to each recommendation contained in the reports. The reports are then presented in public hearings before the Board of Supervisors.

The Civil Grand Jury is independent and selects its own topics for investigation. Past Civil Grand Jury reports have included examining issues such as the City’s Employee Retirement System; education and programming in the county jail; affordable housing; homelessness; and a variety of City Departments, including the Office of Assessor-Recorder, the Fire Department, and Public Utilities Commission.

To conduct its investigations, the Jury interviews City officials, department heads, staff and others who have information relevant to the investigation. The Jury also has the authority to request data, reports, statistics, and other records to assist in its work.

The Civil Grand Jury's term runs from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. After the initial screening, volunteers are interviewed by the Judges of the Civil Grand Jury Committee who select a pool of 30 jurors. From that pool, the 19 sworn jurors and 11 alternates are randomly selected.

Interested volunteers should be able to commit time consistently throughout the one-year term. The Civil Grand Jury usually meets once per week, with additional meetings and interviews scheduled as necessary.

A combination of diverse backgrounds, skills, and interests makes for the most effective Grand Juries. "San Francisco is a vibrant and diverse City," Judge Breall said, "and we want our Civil Grand Jury to reflect that diversity." Volunteers who enjoy researching, learning about City government, writing, editing, analyzing data, or meeting people committed to making San Francisco a better place to live are strongly encouraged to apply.

The Civil Grand Jury Committee, appointed by Presiding Judge Samuel K. Feng, is comprised of Judge Breall; Judge Brian L. Ferrall; Judge Daniel A. Flores; Judge Christopher C.; Hite; Judge Stephen M. Murphy; Judge Murlene J. Randle; and Commissioner Rebecca L. Wightman.

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