



SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
Judge Gustavo Lavayen
Presiding Judge

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FROM: Judge Gustavo E. Lavayen, Presiding Judge

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SANTA BARBARA COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT JOINTLY LAUNCHES
JUDICIAL MENTOR PROGRAM

The Santa Barbara County Superior Court is pleased to announce the formation of a joint Judicial Mentorship Program with the Ventura County and San Luis Obispo County Superior Courts in collaboration with the Office of Governor Gavin Newsom. The program will connect mentor judges with attorneys to increase the applicant pool for new judges. A goal of the program is to convey to the legal community the uniform message of Governor Newsom's commitment to appointing a highly capable bench reflective of the rich diversity of the state.

Launch Date: The Tri-Counties Judicial Mentor Program will officially open with a virtual conference to be held on September 21, 2021, at 12:15 p.m.

The conference will be hosted by the Chairs of the Judicial Mentor Program for the Tri-Counties: The Honorable Manuel Covarrubias (Ventura); the Honorable Gustavo E. Lavayen (Santa Barbara); and the Honorable Rita Federman (San Luis Obispo); and will be joined by Judicial Appointments Secretary Luis Cespedes. To attend the program, please go to the Court's website for further information at <https://www.sbcourts.org/>

The Judicial Mentor Program is two-part program consisting of a one-on-one mentor committee and a community outreach committee.

Mentor Committee

The Presiding Judges of the Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo County Superior Courts have identified a panel of mentor judges who will be available to assist attorneys seeking guidance in applying to the bench.

The role of mentor judges is to provide answer questions and to explain the judicial application process and suggest new experiences to improve the applicant's legal skills. It is not the role of

mentor judges to select or recommend candidates for judicial positions. Participation in the mentor program is not a guarantee of appointment nor provide the applicant any preference for appointment.

Following the launch of the program on September 21, 2021, interested individuals may apply by submitting an application form. Applications and further information will be available through the court's website at <https://www.sbcourts.org/> following the launch. Participants will be paired with a mentor judge who will discuss the prospective applicant's career objectives, answer questions regarding the application and vetting process, and be available to provide input as the candidate completes the application.

Outreach Committee

The Outreach Committee will work with all sectors of the legal community, including bar associations, public interest organizations, government attorneys, private law firms and solo practitioners. The goals of this outreach effort are to:

- Inform members of the legal community of the program;
- Disseminate consistent information regarding the Governor's judicial criteria; and
- Identify and encourage individuals in a position to assist in recruiting possible candidates for the bench.

For further information, please email Torey Winn at Twinn@sbcourts.org