

# Superior Court of California County of Santa Clara

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HONORABLE BRIAN C. WALSH, Presiding Judge

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## **County's Top Citizen Watchdog on the Hunt for New Recruits** *Volunteer search begins for 2014-15 Civil Grand Jury; deadline to submit applications is Friday, March 14, 2014.*

SAN JOSE, Calif. (February 4, 2014): the Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara's Presiding Judge, Hon. Brian C. Walsh, has initiated the Court's recruitment for the 2014-15 Civil Grand Jury. As Santa Clara County's top, civil watchdog agency, the Civil Grand Jury serves as an arm of the Superior Court, ensuring accountability of public agencies.

The Civil Grand Jury is empowered to inspect and audit the books, records, and financial expenditures of all aspects of county and city government and special/school districts. The Civil Grand Jury also has the power to inspect jails and juvenile detention facilities. Recent reports have evaluated oversight of food truck operations and farmers markets, law enforcement public complaint procedures, as well as school district pay practices.

"The Civil Grand Jury is democracy at its best, showing that everyday citizens have extraordinary influence on the efficiency and integrity of local government," said Presiding Judge Brian C. Walsh. "With wide ranging investigative authority, the Civil Grand Jury ensures that no matter how powerful or influential an agency or government official might be, they are still wholly accountable to the people of this county."

Applicants must be 18 years of age or older, United States citizens, and residents of Santa Clara County for at least one year prior to being selected. The one-year term will begin on June 19, 2014. The time commitment is determined by the Civil Grand Jury itself, frequently exceeding more than 20 hours per week.

"It is important to us that we have a diverse Civil Grand Jury that represents Santa Clara's vibrant communities. Because the Civil Grand Jury looks at all aspects of government, we need a deep bench of knowledge – everything from construction to finance – and are looking for a mixed set of skills and abilities. But, most importantly, we are looking for civic mindedness, strong ethics and commonsense," said Presiding Judge Walsh.

Persons interested in applying may obtain an application online at [www.scscourt.org](http://www.scscourt.org). Questions should be directed to [CGJ@scscourt.org](mailto:CGJ@scscourt.org) or by contacting Tamara Davis in the Office of the Civil Grand Jury (408-882-2721).

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