

Superior Court of California County of Santa Clara

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Court Seeks Candidates for Juvenile Justice Commission

SAN JOSE, California (February 13, 2020): Presiding Judge Deborah A. Ryan announced that the Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara, is seeking volunteers to serve on the Juvenile Justice Commission of Santa Clara County.

Santa Clara County continues to be at the forefront of juvenile justice reform, reflecting the leadership of the Superior Court and the commitment and collaboration of the many agencies and departments that administer and provide services within the juvenile justice system.

The Juvenile Justice Commission of Santa Clara County is a state-mandated, court-appointed authority with broad oversight responsibility for the juvenile justice system (serving children who have committed a criminal offense) and the dependency system (serving children suffering abuse or neglect). The Commission is authorized to examine the administration of the juvenile court law in the County. The Commission is dedicated to the promotion of an effective juvenile justice system operated in an environment of credibility, dignity, fairness, and respect for the children and youth of Santa Clara County. The Commission's responsibilities include inspecting juvenile facilities, conducting public or closed hearings on matters relating to juvenile law in the County, and advocating for needed services for youth who may be involved in the justice and dependency systems.

The Commission consists of no more than 15 members, all of whom must reside in Santa Clara County. Adult Commissioners must be 18 years of age; the two youth Commissioners must be between 14 and 21 years of age. Commissioners' responsibilities include attendance at public and closed-session Commission meetings which are held the first Tuesday of every month from noon to 3 pm in downtown San Jose; participation in at least two inspections annually which require site visits, the production of reports, and accompanying recommendations to County officials; and ongoing education and active engagement in addressing issues of juvenile justice in the County. Service requires a commitment of approximately eight hours per week for two or four year terms, unless the Commissioner requests to continue serving. Applications to serve are currently being accepted, and will be accepted until all vacancies are filled.

"The Juvenile Justice Commission plays an important oversight function for Santa Clara County for our children, youth, and families," said Presiding Judge Deborah A. Ryan. "We need civic-minded citizens who bring diverse perspectives and experiences to critically assess and recommend improvements to the juvenile justice and dependency systems. We are grateful to past and present Commissioners for their service and seek others who are similarly interested in serving."

For more information and an application, please visit the [Santa Clara County Superior Court website](#). The Juvenile Justice Commission page can be found under "Juvenile" and "[Juvenile Justice Commission](#)". Please email sccjic@gmail.com with any additional questions or if you would like to speak with a current Commissioner.

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