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Supreme Court Selects Special Masters To Hear Judicial Disciplinary Cases

San Francisco—The Supreme Court today announced the selection of a pool of experienced jurists who will be trained to serve as Special Masters in disciplinary hearings before the Commission on Judicial Performance.

Created by the state Constitution, the Commission on Judicial Performance investigates complaints against judges and may bring formal proceedings against an individual judge. After formal proceedings are initiated, the commission typically requests that the Supreme Court appoint a panel of three Special Masters to hear evidence, and to make findings and recommendations for submission to the commission as a whole.

The Supreme Court, in consultation with the commission, determined that creating a group of trained, experienced jurists to serve as members of the panel in these often complex matters would assist the process. Accordingly, the court solicited applications and nominations to serve as Special Masters in commission proceedings from judges statewide.

More than 100 judges responded, and the Supreme Court had a difficult time selecting from the excellent group of candidates. In making its selections, the court focused on a variety of factors, including geographic distribution, court size, experiences on the bench, experience in ethics, experience as a special master, balance of Court of Appeal and trial court judges, gender, race and ethnicity, and experience in leadership positions in the courts.

Under the direction of the Supreme Court, the Supreme Court staff and representatives of the Commission on Judicial Performance and its staff are working with education experts from the Education Division/Center for Judicial Education and Research of the Administrative Office of the Courts to develop training tailored to the duties of a Special Master.

It is anticipated that fewer than 20 Special Masters will be needed in any one year and that the relatively large pool of masters will enable the

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judges involved to obtain useful and timely experience, without burdening those in the group with too many proceedings.

**SPECIAL MASTERS FOR
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE HEARINGS**

December 2006

California Courts of Appeal

Justice Judith Meisels Ashmann-Gerst, Court of Appeal, Second Appellate District

Justice Patricia Bamattre-Manoukian, Court of Appeal, Sixth Appellate District

Justice Paul Boland, Court of Appeal, Second Appellate District

Justice Tani Gorre Cantil-Sakauye, Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District

Justice Dennis A. Cornell, Court of Appeal, Fifth Appellate District

Justice Judith L. Haller, Court of Appeal, Fourth Appellate District

Justice Stephen J. Kane, Court of Appeal, Fifth Appellate District

Justice Robert M. Mallano, Court of Appeal, Second Appellate District

Justice Douglas P. Miller, Court of Appeal, Fourth Appellate District

Presiding Justice Dennis M. Perluss, Court of Appeal, Second Appellate District

Justice Stuart R. Pollak, Court of Appeal, First Appellate District

Justice Vance W. Raye, Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District

Justice Maria P. Rivera, Court of Appeal, First Appellate District

Superior Courts of California

Judge George J. Abdallah, Jr., Superior Court of San Joaquin County

Presiding Judge Larry W. Allen, Superior Court of San Bernardino County

Judge Gail A. Andler, Superior Court of Orange County

Judge Denise de Bellefeuille, Superior Court of Santa Barbara County

Judge Bradley L. Boeckman, Superior Court of Shasta County

Presiding Judge Donald Cole Byrd, Superior Court of Glenn County
Judge Jacqueline A. Connor, Superior Court of Los Angeles County
Judge Joyce M. Cram, Superior Court of Contra Costa County
Presiding Judge Frank Dougherty, Superior Court of Merced County
Judge Becky Lynn Dugan, Superior Court of Riverside County
Judge Michael T. Garcia, Superior Court of Sacramento County
Judge Louis R. Hanoian, Superior Court of San Diego County
Judge Allan D. Hardcastle (alternate), Superior Court of Sonoma County
Judge Albert T. Harutunian III, Superior Court of San Diego County
Judge Alice C. Hill, Superior Court of Los Angeles County
Judge Talmadge R. Jones, Superior Court of Sacramento County
Presiding Judge Suzanne N. Kingsbury, Superior Court of El Dorado County
Judge Jack Komar, Superior Court of Santa Clara County
Presiding Judge Roger T. Kosel, Superior Court of Siskiyou County
Judge Carolyn B. Kuhl, Superior Court of Los Angeles County
Judge Mary Jo Levinger, Superior Court of Santa Clara County
Judge Ronni B. MacLaren, Superior Court of Alameda County
Judge William A. MacLaughlin, Superior Court of Los Angeles County
Judge Kevin McCarthy, Superior Court of San Francisco County
Judge Mary Morgan, Superior Court of San Francisco County
Judge Anthony J. Mohr, Superior Court of Los Angeles County
Judge Frank J. Ochoa, Superior Court of Santa Barbara County
Judge Vincent J. O'Neill, Jr., Superior Court of Ventura County
Judge B. Tam Nomoto Schumann, Superior Court of Orange County

Judge Michael A. Smith, Superior Court of San Bernardino County

Judge David C. Velasquez, Superior Court of Orange County

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