

## Additional Pathways to the Bench

### Superior Court Commissioner

Court Commissioners are typically appointed by majority vote of the judges at a superior court, to perform judicial and quasi-judicial functions, with primary responsibility for adjudicating cases, including acting as a temporary judge in appropriate cases, and performing other related duties as assigned.

Court Commissioners are appointed by, and serve at the pleasure of, the Judges of the court, and act as temporary judges presiding over cases directed by the Presiding Judge. Court Commissioners perform various judicial functions as prescribed by law or conferred by the court. Article VI, Section 22, of the California Constitution specifies the authority of Court Commissioners. Court Commissioners have the same jurisdiction and exercise the same powers and duties as the Judges of the court with respect to infractions and small claims actions, and in other matters pursuant to stipulation of the parties.

- Must meet qualifications described in Rule 10.701 of the CRC.
- Be a member of the State Bar and admitted to practice for at least ten years, or, on a finding of good cause by the Presiding Judge, for at least 5 years.

How to Apply: Superior Court websites and job announcements.

### Judge Pro Tem (Temporary Judges Program)

A Judge Pro Tem is an attorney who has satisfied the requirements for appointment listed in [California Rules of Court 2.812](#), and has been appointed by the Court to serve as a Temporary Judge.

The Presiding Judge may not appoint an attorney to serve as a Temporary Judge unless the attorney has been admitted to practice as a member of the State Bar of California for at least 10 years before the appointment. However, for good cause, the Presiding Judge may permit an attorney who has been admitted to practice for at least five years to serve as a Temporary Judge.

The Presiding Judge may appoint an attorney to serve as a Temporary Judge only if the attorney has met the following minimum requirements:

- Is an active member in good standing of the State Bar and has no disciplinary action pending;
- Has not pleaded guilty or no contest to a felony, or has not been convicted of a felony that has not been reversed;
- Has satisfied the education and training requirements;
- Has satisfied all other general conditions that the Court may establish for appointment of an attorney as a Temporary Judge in that Court; and
- Has satisfied any additional conditions that the Court may require for an attorney to be appointed as a Temporary Judge for a particular assignment or type of case in that Court.

How to Apply: Contact the Superior Court.

## **State Administrative Law Judge<sup>1</sup>**

Under direction, to preside over quasi-judicial hearings as provided under the Administrative Procedures Act and other applicable statutes; to render proposed decisions or to assist the agency in formulating its decisions; to assist with the research program for continued improvement of administrative law and procedure; and to do other related work.

Presides over or conducts quasi-judicial hearings and investigations for various State and other public agencies in connection with issuance, renewal, suspension, or revocation of licenses under the Administrative Procedures Act or other matters administered by the Office of Administrative Hearings; controls the course of the hearing, secures its reasonable expedition and orderly conduct throughout; administers oaths; instructs participants at hearings as to their rights; questions witnesses; rules on the relevancy or admissibility of evidence as provided by law; issues subpoenas for the attendance of witnesses or the production of necessary books, papers, documents, or other evidence; receives and reviews evidence in written form; examines testimony taken by deposition; prepares proposed decisions from transcripts and evidence submitted containing findings of facts and conclusions of law and recommended actions, or advises and assists the appropriate agency in formulating a decision; prepares reports to supplement findings and recommendations; certifies to official acts of an agency; forwards necessary information to the proper parties when appeals are carried to higher authorities; confers with superior officers, and officials of agencies on matters of policy, procedure, and interpretation and submits recommendations to the various agencies concerned; assists in research programs in connection with the study of administrative law and procedure including their relationship to effective public administration; and assists with the preparation of reports on the research program for the Governor and the State Legislature.

*The Challenges and Rewards of an Administrative Law Judge:*

<https://www.sfbar.org/forms/sfam/q12010/administrative-law-judges.pdf>

How to Apply: <http://www.calhr.ca.gov/Pages/Job-Seekers.aspx>

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.calhr.ca.gov/state-hr-professionals/Pages/6071.aspx>