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REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR THE NEXT JUDICIAL MENTOR PROGRAM VIRTUAL EVENT SET FOR APRIL 17

Featuring California Judicial Appointments Secretary Luis Céspedes and Moderated by Assistant Presiding Judge Sergio C. Tapia II, This Free Virtual Workshop Will Offer a Panel Discussion on the Opportunities for Judicial Mentorship for Attorneys and Commissioners

The Superior Court of Los Angeles County's Judicial Mentor Program has opened registration for its next workshop, "What's Really Stopping You From Applying? Part II: LA County Judicial Officers Discuss How They Overcame Deterrents and Hurdles to Become a Judge." Scheduled for 12:00 p.m. on April 17, this virtual workshop is a great opportunity for attorneys and commissioners in Los Angeles County interested in exploring a career on the bench.

Please click [this link](#) to register now!

"Los Angeles County is home to some of the brightest and most diverse legal talent in the profession," Presiding Judge Samantha P. Jessner said. "Our impressive panelists and speakers will outline the judicial vetting and appointment process and share stories detailing the many pathways that exist for a career as a judicial officer. The Court's mission of providing fair and equal access to justice rests on having a diverse bench that represents the community we serve. I encourage anyone who is interested in pursuing a career on the bench to register for this invaluable workshop."

The virtual workshop will feature opening remarks by Presiding Judge Samantha P. Jessner and a panel discussion moderated by Assistant Presiding Judge Sergio C. Tapia II. Panelists include Assistant Supervising Judge Yvette Verastegui, Judge Christine J. Gonong and Judge J. Christopher Smith. The workshop will also feature a question-and-answer session with Secretary Luis Céspedes and Justice Helen Zukin about the judicial appointment and vetting process.

Who: Opening Remarks

- Hon. Samantha P. Jessner, Presiding Judge, Superior Court of Los Angeles County

Question and Answer Session on Judicial Appointments and Vetting Process

- Luis Céspedes, California Judicial Appointments Secretary
- Hon. Helen Zukin, Associate Justice, Court of Appeal, Second Appellate District, Division Four, Judicial Selection Advisory Committee Chair

Panel Discussion

- Hon. Sergio C. Tapia II, Assistant Presiding Judge, Superior Court of Los Angeles County
- Hon. Yvette Verastegui, Assistant Supervising Judge of the Criminal Division, Superior Court of Los Angeles County
- Hon. Christine J. Gonong, Judge, Family Law, Superior Court of Los Angeles County
- Hon. J. Christopher Smith, Judge, Juvenile Justice, Superior Court of Los Angeles County

What: Los Angeles Superior Court Judicial Mentor Program: What's Really Stopping You From Applying? Part II: LA County Judicial Officers Discuss How They Overcame Deterrents and Hurdles to Become a Judge

When: April 17, 2024, 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Where: Virtual session: click [here](#) to register. Registration closes at 12:00 p.m. on April 16, 2024. A link will be provided to registered participants.



What's *Really* Stopping You From Applying?

Part II: LA County Judicial Officers Discuss How They Overcame Deterrents and Hurdles to Become a Judge

Judicial Mentor Program Featured Speakers and Panelists:



OPENING REMARKS
Samantha P. Jessner
Presiding Judge
Los Angeles Superior Court



MODERATOR
Sergio C. Tapia II
Assistant Presiding Judge
Los Angeles Superior Court



Luis Céspedes
Judicial Appointments Secretary,
Office of Governor
Gavin Newsom



Helen Zukin
Associate Justice
California Court of Appeal
Second Appellate District, Div. 4 &
Judicial Selection Advisory
Committee Chair



Yvette Verastegui
Assistant Supervising Judge,
Criminal Division
Los Angeles Superior Court



Christine J. Gonong
Judge, Family Law
Los Angeles Superior Court



J. Christopher Smith
Judge, Juvenile Justice
Los Angeles Superior Court

April 17, 2024 | 12-1:30 p.m.

REGISTER NOW: bit.ly/JMP2024

If self-doubt has held you back from achieving your professional goals, consider that these high-achieving, accomplished jurists once grappled with the same hesitance earlier in their legal careers. Join a free virtual discussion from **12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. on April 17, 2024** and hear their stories and strategies for overcoming self-doubt and building confidence in your qualifications and achievements.

If you aspire to serve in California's judiciary, a judicial mentor is available to guide you through the application process. Don't miss this 90-minute session, hosted by the Los Angeles Superior Court's Judicial Mentor Program.



SCAN TO REGISTER