



The Superior Court
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CHIEF JUSTICE GEORGE APPOINTS SAN JOAQUIN JUDGE TO JUDICIAL COUNCIL

San Francisco— The Honorable William J. Murray, Jr., judge of the San Joaquin Superior Court, has been appointed to the Judicial Council of California by Chief Justice Ronald M. George.

“I am truly honored to be selected to serve on the Council,” said Judge Murray. “This appointment actually recognizes the statewide reputation the San Joaquin Court has earned for its innovative practices, its community outreach, and its strategic planning activities – areas where this county does excellent work. I look forward to contributing to the development of statewide court policy.”

San Joaquin Presiding Judge George Abdallah said: “All of Judge Murray’s colleagues are very proud of him, his work, and this important recognition, as he joins the policy and rule making body of the California courts.”

Established by the state Constitution in 1926, the 27-member Judicial Council has paved the way for historic reforms that have created an increasingly effective and accessible court system for Californians. In the past decade, the council played a leadership role in the unification of the state’s municipal and superior courts, state funding of the courts, legislation that will result in state ownership of trial court facilities, jury system reform, and numerous initiatives to make the courts more open to the public.

Chaired by the Chief Justice, the Judicial Council consists of 14 members appointed by the Chief Justice, 4 attorney members appointed by the State Bar Board of Governors, 1 member from each house of the Legislature, and 6 advisory members.

Judge Murray was appointed to the superior court bench in 1995. He has chaired the court’s committees on community-focused court planning, jury service, and media relations, and is a member of the Judicial Council’s Criminal Law Advisory Committee and Task Force on Jury System Improvements. Active in CJER judicial education programs, Judge Murray has served as an instructor on jury issues and on racial bias in the justice system. Judge Murray is a past-president of the San Joaquin County Law Library Board of Trustees (1998–2000) and is a current member of the boards of directors of Humphreys College and the Boys and Girls Club of Stockton. In 2002 he served on the Stockton Mayor’s Task Force on Racial Harmony and Fairness.

Judge Murray’s three year term on the Council will begin September 14, 2003.