

Superior Court of California,
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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PRESIDING JUDGE ERIC C. TAYLOR ANNOUNCES APRIL 20 JUDICIAL MENTOR WORKSHOP FOCUSED ON INCLUSIVITY IN THE APPOINTMENT PROCESS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Presiding Judge Eric C. Taylor will give opening remarks for the second 2022 Judicial Mentor Program Outreach Workshop, followed by small virtual breakout rooms in which attorneys will have the opportunity to discuss perceived obstacles to successful appointment to the bench as well as sensitivity and awareness around inclusivity for judicial applicants with disabilities. Andy Imparato, Executive Director of Disability Rights California, will participate in this first-of-its-kind event in California.

"This free workshop will reinforce the need for more judicial applicants with disabilities to prepare for and seek a judicial appointment," Presiding Judge Taylor said. "The program also will provide attorneys with disabilities the opportunity to learn about the judicial appointment process and to ask judges any questions they have in small virtual break-out rooms. I launched the Judicial Mentor Program in late 2020 to promote judicial inclusivity by providing qualified judicial candidates from different backgrounds access to a diverse group of mentor judges who ardently want to help aspiring jurists bring their varied life experiences, backgrounds and perspectives to the bench."

Register now at: [JMPOutreachWorkshop](https://www.lacourt.org/jmpo-outreach-workshop). The workshop will be held from **Noon – 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 20, 2022. Registration closes April 19. All attorneys are welcome to participate in this completely inclusive event.**

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JMP OUTREACH

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The Court has invited Imparato and Christopher Knauf, Director of Litigation at the Disability Rights Legal Center, to participate in this program discussion around the issue of inclusivity, with specific focus on the area of disability.

“I would like to commend Presiding Judge Taylor for hosting a Judicial Mentor Program event focused on helping lawyers with disabilities learn about the judicial application process,” Imparato said. “There is a dearth of people with disabilities on the bench. This event will help raise awareness about the need to improve inclusivity and diversity for people with disabilities and help to answer any questions these judicial candidates have about the appointment process. Hopefully this outreach and other similar events throughout the state will help to increase the number of judgeships for people with disabilities to further diversify the bench.”

Launched in November 2020, the Los Angeles Superior Court’s Judicial Mentor Program has served more than 2,200 members of the legal community through mentoring, outreach presentations and workshops. Through these efforts, the program has conveyed to the legal community the uniform message of Governor Gavin Newsom’s commitment to appointing a highly capable bench, reflective of the state’s rich diversity.

The Judicial Mentor Program is chaired by Judge Audra Mori and consists of two subcommittees: (1) the Mentor Committee, co-chaired by Judge Paul Bacigalupo and Judge Laura Walton, and (2) the Outreach Committee, co-chaired by Judge Kimberley Guillemet and Judge Maria Puente-Porras.

Since the program’s inception, approximately 100 judicial mentor volunteers have been paired with more than 170 attorneys from diverse backgrounds. Mentor judges meet with the attorneys to provide information about the application process, answer their questions and suggest career steps they can take to become qualified judicial applicants. The mentor relationship is expected to last for one year and to include four mentor-mentee meetings within that year.

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