



NEWS RELEASE

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA • COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
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San Diego County Grand Jury Applications Historically Low

For the first time in recent memory, the San Diego Superior Court may not have enough applicants to draw names for the 2017/2018 San Diego County Grand Jury. The Grand Jury performs a traditional function as a “watchdog” over government agencies and investigates citizen complaints. Grand Jurors do not conduct criminal investigations.

In November, the Court announced it was accepting Grand Jury applications from San Diego residents, a total of 47 people have applied. In a good year, more than 100 citizens put their names into the blind drawing.

“It has been getting harder and harder each year to get people to apply to serve on the Grand Jury. We are having a hard time understanding the public’s lack of interest in the work of this very important group of people,” say Executive Officer Michael Roddy.

Grand jurors are selected via a blind draw from each San Diego County Supervisorial Districts. The random drawing gives each District equal representation by population. At this point, the Court does not have enough applicants in Districts 1, 3 or 5. The Court draws six applicants from each district to cover the alternates and serving jurors. Currently the Court has only has four applicants for District 3, three applicants in District 1 and one applicant in District 5.

(MORE)

Applications are now available by telephone at **619-450-7272** or in person at the San Diego Superior Court in the Jury Services Office at the Central (Downtown) branch, and the Jury Lounges at the North, South and East branches of the court. One may also download an application from the San Diego Superior Court's website at www.sdcourts.ca.gov or the Grand Jury's website at www.sdcounty.ca.gov/grandjury.

The 19-member body will work four days a week, approximately six hours a day, from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018 at 550 West C St., Ste. 860 in downtown San Diego. A small stipend per day, plus mileage, and downtown parking are provided.

All application forms must be received by **January 13, 2017**. Qualified candidates who are nominated will be entered in a random drawing tentatively scheduled for June 2, 2017. Candidates must (1) be U.S. citizens, (2) be at least 18 years old, (3) have sufficient knowledge of the English language and (4) have lived in the county for one year prior to selection. All candidates will be required to pass a criminal background check. Individuals meeting the above requirements are encouraged to apply.

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