California Judicial Mentor Program
Marin/Napa/Solano/Sonoma
Mentor Frequently Asked Questions

What am I signing up for?

You agree to be assigned a mentee who is seriously considering submitting an application for judicial appointment. The mentor judge will help demystify the judicial appointment process, answer questions about the judicial application, and may suggest new experiences to improve the mentee's skills.

Do I have a say over who my mentee will be?

Yes, you will be asked to mentor a specific person. If you feel that person is not an appropriate fit, you can decline the proposed match.

What is the time commitment on my end?

You will be asked to engage in a minimum of four sessions with your mentor (virtually, telephonically or in person) over a 12-month period. The mentee is told that the formal mentorship lasts 12 months. You are free to continue longer if you choose.

How does the formal mentorship start?

We will let you know once your mentee is told that you are the mentor. Please then promptly email or call your mentee to set up your first mentoring session. We tell the mentee that if the mentee does not hear from you after two weeks have passed, then the mentee may email you to set up the first session. (We will provide them your court email address only.)

What kind of advice might I be expected to give?

Since mentees have not yet applied for appointment, we expect mentees may ask a number of questions about the application itself and strategies to effectively and efficiently complete it. We also expect mentees to ask how they might improve their skills, such as types of community involvement or pro tem judging.

Are there topics that are off limits?

Yes. The Governor's Office has requested that (1) mentors not convey to mentees assessments of their suitability for appointment; and (2) mentors not prepare their mentees for interviews with the JNE Commission or the Governor's Office.