



SUPERIOR COURT OF
CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF NAPA
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Presiding Judge

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NEWS RELEASE

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NAPA COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT CONDUCTS FIRST-EVER REMOTE CEREMONY FOR CIVIL GRAND JURY

NAPA, CA – On January 6, 2021 the Napa County Superior Court conducted its first-ever remote impanelment ceremony for the Napa County Civil Grand Jury. The 2021–2022 Civil Grand Jury took its oath over video appearance because of the ongoing pandemic.

During the ceremony, which was also streamed to YouTube, Superior Court Judge Victoria Wood announced the selection of 19 members of the local community to serve on the 2021–2022 Napa County Civil Grand Jury. The term of office is January 2021 through June 2022.

In an ordinary year, the Court hosts an annual event where it accepts the Grand Jury's Final Report, dismisses current Grand Jurors from their service and selects the incoming Grand Jury panel. This year's program was shorter given acceptance of the final report and discharge of 2019-2020 grand jurors in August 2020.

During the Spring of 2020, the Court ordered the Grand Jury's term to be extended to complete their Final Report and to address uncertainties arising from the impacts related to the developing COVID-19 pandemic. Also, in December 2020, the Napa County Board of Supervisors approved to move the Grand Jury's term from fiscal year to an extended calendar year term, pursuant to California Penal Code 905.5(b).

The Grand Jury functions as an arm of the judicial branch of government and operates under the authority of the Napa Superior Court. It investigates and reports on the operations, accounts, and records of local government officers and agencies. Grand jurors also have the power to investigate citizen complaints about local government.

"The Grand Jury plays an invaluable role in our local community. Serving on the Jury represents a unique opportunity to learn about and hold accountable the machinations of our government institutions as well as the people who govern our local affairs and services. This vital civic duty is more important than ever during these unprecedented times," said Judge Wood.

For any questions or other inquiries, please contact the Court Executive Office at 707-299-1110. #####