SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA • COUNTY OF MADERA
Jury Division
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Madera, CA 93637
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An Opportunity to Make a Difference in your Community

You have an opportunity to make a difference! The Madera County Superior Court is seeking qualified citizens interested in serving on the Grand Jury for the next fiscal year.

The Grand Jury is the only truly independent "watchdog" investigative body in Madera County. Composed of 19 citizens, it monitors the performance and activities of county, city, and special district governments, and elected officials and makes recommendations for improvement to ensure that the best interest of its citizens are being served. While many people associate grand juries with indictments in criminal cases, in Madera County, criminal cases usually are presented to the Court by the District Attorney. On rare occasions, the Grand Jury may be asked to consider a criminal matter.

Although Grand Jury investigations often are initiated on the basis of citizen complaints, the Grand Jury also may act on its own initiative to investigate local governments. By law, Grand Jurors are prohibited from disclosing the evidence obtained in their investigations or revealing the names of complainants or witnesses. Similarly, witnesses are prohibited from disclosing any proceedings of the Grand Jury. At the end of its term, the Grand Jury issues its report on its watchdog investigations.

If you are interested in serving as a Grand Juror, we urge you to submit your application as soon as possible. Superior Court Judges will review the applications of candidates and select potential Grand Jurors. From this group, a random drawing is held to select the 19 individuals who will serve as the county's Grand Jury for the new fiscal year beginning in July, with the remaining candidates available to serve as alternates should the need arise. Of the 19 Grand Jurors selected, one person with leadership and organizational skills is designated as foreperson by the Court to preside over meetings of the Grand Jury.

The qualities sought in an individual applying to serve on the Grand Jury include being a good listener, the willingness to cooperate with 18 others in pursuit of a common goal, and the ability to ask thoughtful questions, review documents and help write clear and concise reports. Candidates should have an interest in trying to increase the efficiency of local government and improve public services. A time commitment of approximately 20 to 25 hours per week is necessary to perform this valuable public service.

Please contact the Madera County Superior Court Jury Division at **(559) 416-5570** or you may email us at **jury@madera.courts.ca.gov** to obtain an application to be considered.