SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
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STANISLAUS COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT LAUNCHES FIRST CALIFORNIA JUDICIAL MENTOR PROGRAM IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA IN COLLABORATION WITH THE OFFICE OF GOVERNOR GAVIN NEWSOM.

Together with San Joaquin, Calaveras, and Tuolumne Counties, Stanislaus County is pleased to announce the launch of the California Judicial Mentor Program, which all four counties will operate as a regional collaboration.

Stanislaus County Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert Westbrook announced the first of its kind California Judicial Mentor Program in Northern California in collaboration with the Office of Governor Gavin Newsom. The program is modeled after a similar recently-launched program in Los Angeles and will connect mentor judges with local attorneys to increase the applicant pool for new judges. The program's intent is to bring the state closer to Governor Newsom's goal of appointing highly capable judges reflective of the rich diversity of the state.

"Considering whether to apply for a judgeship can be a lot like pondering a jump off a cliff, not knowing what lies at the bottom. We are pleased to partner with our sister courts in San Joaquin, Calaveras, and Tuolumne to help those considering just such a leap. Pairing applicants with mentor judges will hopefully demystify the process and better prepare the candidates for what lies ahead. Fear and uncertainty can be a barrier to entry, so it is hoped that by removing that barrier we can attract more, and more qualified applicants," Presiding Judge Westbrook said.

Governor Newsom's Judicial Appointments Secretary Luis Cespedes said the program "is a critical step to ensuring equal access to judicial mentorship for attorneys considering applying to the bench."

The program pairs local attorneys committed to public service with judges who will help demystify the judicial appointment process, answer questions about the application and vetting process, and suggest new skills and experiences to improve suitability for appointment.

The program will work with local bar associations, nonprofit legal organizations, government lawyers, law firms, and solo practitioners to identify and encourage promising judicial candidates to apply for appointment. The goal will be to mentor them in their development, thus creating a pipeline of highly qualified applicants eligible for appointment.

To learn more about the program, visit the Stanislaus County Superior Court's website.