



STATE BAR COURT RECRUITMENT FOR A NEWLY VACANT HEARING DEPARTMENT JUDICIAL POSITION IN LOS ANGELES

The California Supreme Court's Applicant Evaluation and Nomination Committee (AENC) seeks qualified candidates to serve as a judge for the State Bar Court. The AENC seeks applications for one newly vacant position in the Hearing Department, based in Los Angeles.

This vacancy offers an opportunity for new applicants to join the State Bar Court. The Hearing Department judge will be appointed by the California Supreme Court.

The position may require travel to the other State Bar Court location in San Francisco as needed for various durations.

Once appointed in mid-2025, the judge will serve the remainder of a six-year term ending October 31, 2028.

Salaries for State Bar Court judges are established by California Business and Professions Code sections 6079.1(d) and 6086.65(a); effective January 1, 2025, Hearing Department judges shall be paid the salary of a superior court judge. The current annual salary of a superior court judge is \$244,727; this is adjusted annually by the California State Department of Human Resources.

ABOUT THE STATE BAR COURT

The State Bar Court is an independent, adjudicative entity acting as an administrative arm of the California Supreme Court to hear and decide attorney disciplinary and regulatory proceedings and to make recommendations to the Supreme Court regarding those matters. The State Bar Court consists of:

- A three-member Review Department, which is the appellate level of the court; and
- A five-member Hearing Department, the trial level of the court.

JOB DESCRIPTION

In carrying out their duties, each State Bar Court judge is subject to the administrative direction of the Presiding Judge of the State Bar Court and must cooperate with other judges and court officials in the administration of court business, including preparing administrative reports and attending periodic judicial conferences.

Hearing Department Judge: Hearing Department judges hear and decide attorney disciplinary and regulatory cases, make recommendations to the Supreme Court regarding the imposition of discipline or other appropriate disposition in those matters which require Supreme Court action, and perform related judicial duties. A hearing judge is expected to work independently, handle multiple tasks in a timely and efficient manner, and successfully manage a caseload in compliance with established court performance standards.

The duties of a hearing judge include:

- Scheduling and holding early neutral evaluation, status, settlement, and pretrial conferences;
- Ruling on motions;
- Scheduling and holding trials;
- Writing decisions and orders detailing all material findings of fact and conclusions of law; and
- Issuing other orders as necessary.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

A State Bar Court judge:

- Shall have been a licensee of the State Bar of California for at least five years;
- Shall be an accomplished writer, with the ability to perform legal analysis;
- Shall have practical knowledge of or experience in areas such as supervising a law office, managing client trust funds, professional ethics, courtroom procedures and demeanor, and client interaction;
- Shall have the ability to work independently and to maintain a professional demeanor while resolving conflicts and making decisions;
- Shall not have any record of discipline as an attorney in California or any other jurisdiction; and
- Shall meet the requirements established by rule 9.11 of the California Rules of Court and Government Code section 12011.5 [industry, legal and judicial experience (including prior service as a judge of the State Bar Court), judicial temperament, honesty, objectivity, community respect, integrity, and ability].

Preferred Experience

- More than 10 years of practice as an attorney;
- Courtroom or equivalent experience;
- Management responsibilities in a legal office setting; and
- Background in professional ethics and responsibilities.

APPOINTMENTS AND TERMS

This position fills a vacancy in a term that ends October 31, 2028. It will commence once the Supreme Court makes its appointment in mid-2025. Terms for State Bar Court judges are typically six years, and judges can be reappointed.

State Bar Court judges have the same immunity that attaches to judges of California courts of record. They are also subject, during their terms, to admonition, censure, removal, or retirement on the same grounds as provided for judges of courts of record under Business and Professions Code section 6079.1(a) and California Rules of Court, rule 9.11(d).

REVIEW AND RATING OF APPLICANTS FOR APPOINTMENT

Pursuant to rule 9.11 of the California Rules of Court, the Supreme Court has created the AENC to solicit, receive, screen, and evaluate all applications for appointment or reappointment to any appointive position of judge of the State Bar Court. Only applicants recommended by the AENC or by the Supreme Court may be appointed.

An extensive professional and personal history, check of personal and professional references, background investigation, disclosure of any actual or potential conflicts of interest, and personal interview may be required. Early applications are highly encouraged.

[Please apply online here.](#)

The deadline for receipt of applications is Monday, January 6, 2025, 5:00 p.m.

For further information, please email aenc@calbar.ca.gov or call 213-765-1388.