

CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION

THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF SAN FRANCISCO



Considering the Bench?

A Conversation with the Governor's Judicial Appointments Secretary

Tuesday

April 14, 2026

In-Person Program: 5:00 - 6:15 p.m.

Light Reception to follow.

The Bar Association of San Francisco and CA State Bar of California is featuring Judicial Appointments Secretary Luis Cespedes and Deputy Secretary Adam Hofmann. This program will explore the vital role of judicial service and to discuss the judicial-appointments process in California, from application to vetting and appointments. Learn about the vital role of judicial service and the ongoing efforts to broaden the pool of highly qualified candidates for the bench. Understanding that expanding outreach to a wide and diverse community of attorneys is a key step in ensuring that the judiciary reflects the depth of talent, experience, and perspectives within the legal profession.

Location

BASF Offices
50 Fremont Street, Suite 1700
San Francisco, CA

Cost

Free for All
Pre-registration is required by Tuesday, April 14.
No walk-ins.

Speakers



Secretary Luis Céspedes

Judicial Appointments Secretary in the Office of the Governor

Luis Céspedes serves as Judicial Appointments Secretary to Gavin Newsom, advising the Governor on the evaluation and selection of judicial candidates across California. Prior to his appointment, he served in several roles in the California State Assembly, including Administrative Assistant and Co-Chief of Staff to Vic Fazio and as a principal and senior consultant to Assembly committees and leadership. Céspedes later spent decades in private legal practice in Sacramento.



Honorable Dawn Payne

Superior Court of San Francisco County

The Honorable Dawn Payne was appointed to the Superior Court of San Francisco County in June 2025 by Governor Gavin Newsom. She currently is assigned to a felony preliminary hearings and felony arraignment calendar department. She previously oversaw the court's criminal domestic violence calendar and presided over criminal trials.



Deputy Secretary Adam Hofmann

Judicial Appointments Secretary in the Office of the Governor

Adam Hofmann is the Deputy Judicial Appointments Secretary in the Office of California Governor Gavin Newsom. He also recently served as the Chair of the State Bar's Commission on Judicial Nominees Evaluations and was a partner and co-chair of the appellate practice at the law firm Hanson Bridgett and an Appellate Specialist, certified by the California Board of Legal Specialization.



Honorable Julia V. Cervantes

Superior Court of San Francisco County

The Honorable Julia V. Cervantes was appointed to the Superior Court of San Francisco in March 2025 by Governor Gavin Newsom. During her tenure with the San Francisco Superior Court, Judge Cervantes has presided in criminal trial and collaborative courtrooms. She currently is a member of the Court's Executive Committee, the Judicial Mentor Committee, the New Judge Orientation Committee, and the Bail Review and Fines and Fees Committee.

Register online: www.sfbar.org/calendar

Event Code: G261607