

Superior Court of California

C O U N T Y O F T U L A R E



To provide fair and timely justice by ensuring equal access for all people, resolving disputes, upholding the laws, and protecting rights guaranteed by the Constitutions of California and the United States.

TULARE COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT INVITES YOUR INTEREST
IN THE POSITION OF

COURT COMMISSIONER



VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO APPLY: WWW.TULARE.COURTS.CA.GOV

Tulare County Superior Court

The Tulare County Superior Court is a unified trial court serving the County of Tulare. The court hears all matters in criminal, traffic, civil, probate, juvenile, family and mental health cases. There were 67,670 new cases filed in fiscal year 2022-23. The court also operates a number of collaborative courts including drug court, mental health court, recovery court, and veterans' court. The court, with an approximate annual budget of \$37.8 million, employs over 250 non-judicial staff in 5 locations. There are currently 25 judicial positions authorized: 22 judges and 3 subordinate Judicial Officers (SJOs).

Tulare County Superior Court is proactively managed and continually making technological advancements. The court is engaged in expanding access to the public by providing remotely accessible courtrooms and augmenting online services to extend additional conveniences to the public such as the ability to electronically file cases, and the ability to submit electronic evidence which will be available in the coming months. Our bench officers enjoy electronic case files, the ability to process warrants digitally and access to on-demand professional technical support. With an eye to the future, the court is committed to implementing technology that adds efficiencies for not only the court but for our constituents as well.

About the County

Centrally located within the State of California, Tulare County is situated in a delightful and geographically - diverse region. The county

includes an area of 4,863 square miles. Mountain peaks of the Sierra Nevada range rise to more than 14,000 feet in its Eastern half. Meanwhile, the extensively cultivated and very fertile valley floor in the western half, has allowed Tulare County to become the second-leading producer of agricultural commodities in the United States. In addition to substantial packing / shipping operations, light and medium manufacturing plants are increasing in number and are becoming an important factor in the county's total economic picture.

The county has a growing population of 479,112. The eastern half of the county is comprised primarily of public lands within the Sequoia National Park, National Forest, and the Mineral King, Golden Trout, and Domelands Wilderness areas. Opportunities for all-season outdoor recreation include hiking, water and snow skiing, fishing, and boating.

Visalia, the county seat, is the gateway to Sequoia National Park and a variety of recreational activities. The city, with a population of 127,081 is within a four-hour drive of either San Francisco or Los Angeles, and a 2-1/2 hour drive of California's central coastline. It's family-oriented lifestyle and affordable housing have proven attractive to people from all areas of the state and country.



Position Summary

The Court Commissioner presides over proceedings in one or more of the following: civil and small claim actions, criminal and traffic arraignments; hearings and trials of infractions, misdemeanors and felonies; probate, family law and juvenile court. They must maintain current knowledge of the California Civil Code, Penal Code, Evidence Code, Rules of Court, Code of Civil Procedures, Family Law Code and Welfare and Institutions Code, case law, federal, state and local laws, rules and regulations as they apply to the duties assigned as well as, performing all the duties and responsibilities as set forth in CCP 259; hear, report on, and determine all contested actions and proceedings subject to the requirement of CCP 259(e). The Court Commissioner will arraign defendants; grant continuances; hears, review and rules on a variety of petitions, motions and make other actions; take evidence from concerned parties and other witnesses; make or recommends appropriate court orders; accepts pleas and imposes sentences; sets cases for hearing and trial, conducts court and jury trials. Additionally, they will review court files, documents, orders and related materials to assess cases prior to and following hearings, preparing court documents, records, reports, correspondence and other written materials pertaining to case findings. Will act as a temporary judge in court cases pursuant to the stipulation of counsel or parties, conducts a daily court calendar, presiding over hearings and trials and ruling, findings, judgment and orders in a fair and ethical manner.

Ideal Candidate

The ideal candidate has demonstrated knowledge of the California State Judicial System and California Rules of Court and codes such as but not limited to; Vehicle, Penal,

Evidence, Family Law, Welfare and Institutions, Civil, Code of Civil Procedure and Code of Judicial Conduct. Additionally, they should be familiar with trial and hearing procedures, courtroom procedures and protocol, legal principles and precedent as applied to judicial procedures. They should be well versed in the interpretations and application of Federal, State and local laws, rules and regulations and well as legal research techniques, including the use of electronic legal reference works and community resources related the California Judicial System.

The model candidate should have the ability to read, understand and interpret a variety of laws, rules and regulations while exercising appropriate and ethical judicial temperament and demeanor in the treatment of other judicial officers, litigants, support staff, attorneys and other governmental agencies. In addition, the candidate should be able to objectively analyze, interpret and apply legal principles, facts, evidence and a variety of information and relate it to the law and precedent to reach sound and just decisions while conducting the courtroom in a fair, courteous, decisive, orderly, timely, equitable and efficient manner as to promote respect for the judicial process.

The ideal candidate should be a graduate of a law school accredited by the American Bar Association or the California State Bar's Committee of Bar Examiners and a minimum of five years of the active practice of law with substantial experience in either civil, criminal, family, juvenile or probate law. Significant trial or law and motion experience is preferred.

Compensation and Benefits

This full-time position is compensated at \$202,706 annually.

Selection Process

Retirement

The retirement plan is a defined benefit plan administered pursuant to the 1937 Act County Employees Retirement Act and integrated with Social Security. In addition to ordinary retirement benefits, the plan provides disability and death benefits. Retirement contributions are made by both the Tulare County Superior Court and the employee. The Tulare County Superior Court has reciprocity with the State of California, contracting PERS agencies, State Teachers' Retirement System, and all County 1937 Act Retirement Systems.

Insurance Plans

A medical PPO plan, dental and vision coverage are available. Dependent coverage is also available. Life insurance coverage of \$10,000 is provided. All positions are eligible for long-term and/or state disability insurance. Additional supplemental life and long-term disability insurance may be purchased by the employee.

Other Benefits

Employee Assistance Program, Employee Recognition Program, IRS Section 125 Program (provides tax savings for insurance costs, dependent care costs and unreimbursed medical expenses).

Leave

The court provides vacation accruals and sick leave based on years of service.

Holidays

There are fourteen (14) paid holidays annually plus two (2) floating holidays.

Deferred Compensation Plans

Optional deferred compensation 457.

Interested candidates are asked to visit our website at www.tulare.courts.ca.gov to complete an application and submit their resume by May 10, 2024.

Following an administrative review of each application, the Court will invite **only** those candidates it deems may best meet the needs of the Court to an oral interview.

A background check will be required and may include, but not limited to, work experience, driving record, criminal record, involvement in civil or other litigation, and financial/credit information.

For additional information or questions please contact:

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