



**Candidate Questionnaire for
San Francisco Superior Court Judge, seat 7
Primary Election, June 7, 2016**

Please return this questionnaire electronically to contact_us@phdemclub.org **no later than Tuesday, March 29th**. Candidates who do not return the questionnaire by the due date will not be invited to participate in the April 5th forum. The completed questionnaires will be made available to our members online.

Candidate name: Paul Henderson

Contact person: Ace Smith

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Phone number: 415 845-3773

Web site: paulhendersonforjudge.com

Current occupation: Deputy Chief of staff, public safety -Mayor Ed Lee

Please write a brief response (≤ 200 words) to each question.

1. Why do you want to be a Superior Court Judge?

I want to be a judge because I have the right experience, judgment and temperament to lead a courtroom where justice will be served. I have been enriched by experiences that set me apart from the typical lawyer. My career has allowed me to deal with all types of people in a variety of circumstances. This background gives me a unique perspective that would inform my decision making process as a judicial officer. I have handled litigation across a wide field of practice areas and from a variety of roles. More importantly, I have worked with advocates and communities to represent a variety of interests both within and outside of the courtroom. I have extensive experience in government, (with both legal and non-legal positions) which contributes greatly to my understanding of the way decisions are made.

When approaching legal issues, I am practical, objective, and a problem solver. It is my goal, if elected, to lead by example by remaining committed to civic duty and service. I would remain dedicated to expanding opportunities within the legal profession for underserved and underrepresented communities. I hope to continue growing these opportunities if offered the privilege to continue my public service on the bench.

2. How does your particular experience qualify you for this office?

I believe that my experiences, both professionally and personally, provide me with unique qualifications regarding the role of a judicial officer.

Despite the challenges that I have faced in my life, I was able to ascend as a leader in our legal profession.

I have worked for well over 17 years as a trial attorney with a heavy caseload in the courtroom arguing hearings, defending motions and conducting trials (I have tried a variety of 46 matters to verdict). Moreover, I have developed and implemented a number of programs related to justice reforms before moving into management positions. During my career I have served as a Pro-Tem Superior Court bench officer resolving criminal cases. Moreover, I also have several years of experience as a hearing officer (in the county of Alameda) where I heard civil appellate cases.

Outside of the courtroom I have continued to contribute to the legal profession by a deep involvement with public service activities. I serve alongside numerous boards and agencies designed to create opportunities for others while maintaining a high profile of service.

*I have been reviewed by the Bar Association of San Francisco and found to be "Well Qualified" from the Judiciary Committee.

3. What distinguishes you from other candidates?

Aside from my broad range of actual trial experience (both criminal and civil), I have a number of qualities which distinguish me from the other candidates. I grew up here in San Francisco and I have deep roots to this community and have built almost the entirety of my professional career here in this city. Moreover, I am unique in that I have extensive policy implementation and development experience as a manager and executive in the legal profession. Additionally, I spent two years as a pro-tem Superior court judge handling various juvenile matters before I was appointed as a hearing officer in California where I handled civil appellate cases. Finally, I am the only candidate to have been independently vetted by the San Francisco Bar Association, the JNE (judicial Nominee Committee and the "secret committee" and deemed to be well qualified for a judicial position.

4. What endorsements have you received?

This is a partial list of endorsements.

San Francisco Democratic Party (DCCC), *Sole Endorsement*

Alice B. Toklas Democratic Club, *Sole Endorsement*

London Breed, *President San Francisco Board of Supervisors*

Ed Lee, *Mayor San Francisco*

Scott Wiener, *San Francisco Board of Supervisors*

Malia Cohen, *San Francisco Board of Supervisors*

Shamann Walton, *San Francisco Board of Education*

Emily Murase, *San Francisco Board of Education*

Suzy Loftus, *President San Francisco Police Commission*

Zoe Dunning, *San Francisco Democratic Party (DCCC)*

Alix Rosenthal, *San Francisco Democratic Party (DCCC)*

Harry Dorfman, *Judge San Francisco Superior Court*

Gavin Newsom, *Lieutenant Governor*

Eric Swalwell, *U.S. Congressman*

John Chiang, *State Treasurer*

David Jones, *Insurance Commissioner*

Fiona Ma, *State Board of Equalization*

Holly Mitchell, *State Senator*

Isadore Hall, III, *State Senator*

Tony Thurmond, *Assemblymember*

Gwen Moore, *Assemblymember (Ret.)*

Vicki Hennessey, *San Francisco Sheriff*

Ronald E. Albers, *San Francisco Superior Court Judge*

Nancy Davis, *San Francisco Superior Court Judge*

Gail Dekreon, *San Francisco Superior Court Judge*

Kay Tsenin, *San Francisco Superior Court Judge*

Martin Jenkins, *California 1st District Court of Appeal Associate Justice*

Demetrius Shelton, *Administrative Law Judge*

Alice Huffman, *California NAACP President*

Obai Rambo, *Caucus Director of CYD & Chair of the CYD Renters Caucus*

Darren Parker, *Democratic Party African American Caucus Chair*

Matt Haney, *San Francisco Board of Education President*

Michael Sweet, *San Francisco Human Rights Commissioner*

Toye Moses, *Willie B. Kennedy Democratic Club President*

Conor Johnston, *Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club Board*

Amy Bacharach, *San Francisco City College Trustee*

Elmy Bermejo, *U.S. Dept. of Labor Regional Representative*

Jennifer Madden, *Alameda County Assistant District Attorney*

Jean Quan, *Former Mayor of Oakland*

Leslie Katz, *Former San Francisco Supervisor*

Ash Kalra, *San Jose City Councilmember*

Vince Courtney Jr., *NCDCL local 261 Political Director*

Derrick Mohammed, *ILWU Secretary*

Dion-Jay Brookter, *Young Community Developers Deputy Director*

Teresa Cox, *Ohlone College Board of Trustees*

Gail Dekreon, *Superior Court Judge*

Nancy Davis, *Superior Court Judge*

retired Ina Gyemant, *Superior Court Judge*

Sophie Maxwell, *former SF Supervisor Bayview*

Patti Lee, *Managing attorney juvenile division SF public defender*

Joe Marshall, *Police Commissioner*

Amos Brown, *President NAACP*

Sheryl Davis, *Director Mo Magic / Project Impact*

Cathy Davis, *Executive Director Bayview Senior Services*

Sharon Woo, *Assistant Chief San Francisco District Attorney's Office*

Sam Dodge, *Homeless Services Director*

Kevin Epps, *Community activist/Filmmaker*

Paul Miyamoto, *Assistant Sheriff*

Alex Bastian, *San Francisco Prosecutor*

Bill Hirsh, *Executive Director AIDS Legal Referral Panel*

*** NOTE: Titles and positions are for identification purposes only.

Thank you for your time and your commitment to public service. Pending timely receipt of your questionnaire, we look forward to seeing you at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House on April 5th.

Executive Committee, Potrero Hill Democratic Club