PRESS RELEASE – November 18, 2026

SAN FRANCISCO SUPERIOR COURT, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN JUDGES, CALIFORNIA JUDGES FOUNDATION, AND QUEEN'S BENCH FOUNDATION

THE RETURN OF THE COLOR OF JUSTICE IN SAN FRANCISCO

Diversity in the Legal Profession – Judges and Lawyers representative of the communities they serve – that is the goal of the San Francisco Color of Justice Program. Since 2004, this program has encouraged underserved youth to consider a career as a lawyer. In 2012, the San Francisco Color of Justice Program won the National Conference of Women's Bar Association's Public Service Award. The San Francisco Color of Justice Program was developed from the National Association of Women Judges' broader Color of Justice Program.

This is the first year since the COVID-19 pandemic that this program is being held. Students from Balboa High School in San Francisco participate in this half-day program.

It will take place on Wednesday, December 2, 2026 at the Milton Marks Conference Center in the Hiram W. Johnson State Building in San Francisco beginning at 9:15 a.m. The press is invited to observe.

The varying paths to a legal career are presented by judges and lawyers who themselves have overcome adversity to attain success in their career while remaining true to their values and principles. They will share personal and moving stories about their childhoods, law school experiences and struggles and early years of their practice as a lawyer. Pathways to becoming a judge will also be shared.

A high point of the program is a mock argument in a free speech case introduced by attorney Elisha Jussen-Cooke and argued by Derek F. Foran, partner at Steptoe LLP, and Arturo J. González, partner at Morrison & Foerster, LLP.

San Francisco Superior Court Presiding Judge-Elect Christopher C. Hite will welcome the students and give a brief overview of the structure of the San Francisco Superior Court. Thereafter, the students will observe the mock argument and two panel presentations.

San Francisco Superior Court Judge Anne Costin will moderate the first panel about whether youth should be treated differently from adults in Juvenile Court. San Francisco's Deputy Public Defender Vilaska Nguyen and Assistant District Attorney Jean Roland will debate this topic.

San Francisco Superior Court Judge Linda Colfax will moderate the second panel about the pathways taken to their legal careers. The panelists are Justice Danny Y. Chou, California Court of Appeal, First Appellate District, Division Five, Claudia Quintana, Lead Attorney of the Special Immigrant Juvenile Project at the Justice and Diversity Center of the Bar Association of San Francisco, and Lin Y. Chan, partner at Lieff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein, LLP.

Afterwards, the students will participate in intimate breakout sessions over lunch with judges and attorneys based throughout the San Francisco Bay Area.

The program concludes at approximately 1 p.m. with a ceremony where the students are presented with souvenirs donated by the National Association of Women Judges, Asian American Bar Association, San Francisco Superior Court, Queen's Bench Bar Association, Berliner Cohen, LLP, ADR Services, Inc., Trucker Huss, APC, and Sara Craig, President of Queen's Bench.

The members of the steering committee for the program are Michael Rosenberg from the Law Academy at Balboa High School, Judge Linda Colfax, Ret. Judge Suzanne Ramos Bolanos, attorneys and Queen's Bench Past Presidents, Eliza Rodrigues, Kelly Robbins of Robbins Family Law and Elisha Jussen-Cooke of Cooperative Restraining Order Clinic, Queen's Bench Secretary, Veena Bansal of Berliner Cohen, LLP, Queen's Bench Treasurer, Juliane Wishne of Wordsmith Law, and Queen's Bench Foundation Director, Andrea Russi of the Contra Costa County Counsel's Office.

We thank the California Judges Foundation and Queen's Bench Foundation for their generous donations to make this program possible. Last but not least, thank you to our volunteers for their time and participation in this event.

If you have any inquiries, please contact Veena Bansal at veena.bansal@berliner.com or at (408) 286-5800.