

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Feb. 4, 2026

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## **23 Applicants Being Considered for Superior Court in Maricopa County**

**PHOENIX** - The public is invited to comment on 23 applicants for two vacancies on the Superior Court in Maricopa County created by the upcoming retirement of Hon. Tracey Westerhausen and the resignation of Hon. Lisa S. Wahlin.

The applicants are:

- Samin Adib
- Christian J. Bell
- Neha Bhatia
- Yusra B. Bokhari
- Ramsey K. Bronyah
- Harla M. Davison
- Lacey A. Fisher
- Gregory J. Gnepper
- Saman J. Golestan
- Lindsay M. Hughes Kunaschk
- Jacob A. Kubert
- Utiki S. Laing
- Todd C. Lawson
- Shalanda M. Looney
- Michael A. Minicozzi
- Christopher A. Nichols
- Michael P. Obert, Jr.
- Ashley B. Rahaman
- Sarah E. Selzer
- Jonathan C. Simon
- Jordan A. Smith
- Joshua M. Whitaker
- Kirsten J. Wright

Applications can be viewed online at the Commission's website, [azcourts.gov/jnc](https://azcourts.gov/jnc).

**The Maricopa County Commission on Trial Court Appointments will review applications and hear comments at a public meeting on Feb. 18, 2026.** The meeting will be held in Conference Room 329 of the Arizona State Courts Building, 1501 W. Washington, Phoenix, AZ 85007. The public meeting notice and meeting agenda will be posted on the Commission's website at least seven days prior to the meeting.

The public may address the Commission on the day of the meeting or send written comments to [jnc@courts.az.gov](mailto:jnc@courts.az.gov) or to 1501 W. Washington, Suite 221, Phoenix, AZ, 85007. It is not necessary to submit multiple copies of written comments – email is preferred. Comments must be received no later than Feb. 13 to be considered. Anonymous comments cannot be considered.

The Commission will select the applicants to be interviewed at the Feb. 18 meeting, they will then be interviewed on Mar. 2, 2026. The logistics of this meeting will be available after the Feb. 18 meeting. After the interviews, the Commission will recommend at least three nominees for each opening to Gov. Katie Hobbs, who will appoint the new judges.

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