

JUDGE YVONNE ESPERANZA CAMPOS

Superior Court of California, County of San Diego
San Diego, California

The Honorable Yvonne Campos was appointed to the Superior Court of the State of California by Governor Gray Davis and was sworn in on October 2, 2003. She currently serves on the Appellate Division of the Superior Court, reviewing limited civil and criminal misdemeanor appeals. She previously presided over criminal trial and moving departments in the San Diego Central Division, criminal trial and moving departments in the South County Division, and a juvenile dependency department in Juvenile Court.

Prior to joining the bench, Judge Campos served as an Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA) in the Southern District of California from October 1995 to October 2003, serving as a Deputy Chief in the General Crimes Section. A nationally recognized federal narcotics prosecutor, she received the U.S. Department of Justice EOUSA Director's Award for Superior Performance as an AUSA in 2002, the Administrator's Award from the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) in 2001 for outstanding contributions to drug law enforcement, and U.S. Department of Justice Special Achievement Awards in 1999 and 1997. In 1994, Judge Campos was awarded a White House Fellowship by President Clinton and served on the staff of Attorney General Janet Reno at the United States Department of Justice in Washington, D. C. Prior to that, Judge Campos was an attorney in private practice specializing in real estate transactions, land use and environmental law with the California law firms of Morrison & Foerster (Los Angeles) and Brobeck, Phleger & Harrison (San Diego). Immediately upon graduation from law school, Judge Campos served as a Senate Fellow with the California State Senate (Sen. Gary K. Hart) in Sacramento. While in college, she served as an LBJ Congressional Intern for the U. S. House of Representatives (Rep. Martin Frost) in Washington, D.C.

A graduate of Harvard Law School (J.D. 1988) and Stanford University (A.B. 1985 With Distinction), Judge Campos is a member of the California Judges Association (CJA), California Latino Judges Association (CLJA), the American Bar Association (ABA), California Women Lawyers (CWL), the San Diego County Bar Association (SDCBA), Association of Business Trial Lawyers (ABTL), Lawyers Club of San Diego, the San Diego La Raza Lawyers Association (SDLRLA), the National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ), and the American Judges Association (AJA). She previously served on the California Task Force on Court Facilities, the Immigration and Naturalization Service Citizens' Advisory Panel, pro bono Staff Counsel to the Independent Commission on the Los Angeles Police Department (the Christopher Commission), and as a member of the Board of Directors of California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc. (CRLA). She serves as an Elected Director of the worldwide Harvard Alumni Association (HAA) and as a member of the Board of Trustees of the San Diego County Law Library. She is a visiting instructor at Harvard Law School's Trial Advocacy Workshop. She is admitted to the California State Bar, the U.S. Supreme Court Bar, and is admitted to and has practiced before the U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit, and the U.S. District Court in the Central and Southern Districts of California.

A native Californian, she has hiked Mt. Whitney (tallest mountain on the lower 48 states), Mt. Baldy, Mt. San Jacinto, and she enjoys reading, traveling, photography, hiking and spending