



Diana B. Kruze, Esq.



Results Beyond DisputeSM

A full-time mediator, arbitrator, and discovery referee, Diana Kruze has successfully resolved multi-million-dollar cases globally. Her practice focuses on a wide variety of commercial disputes including IP infringement, biotech and pharmaceuticals, licensing, data breach/cybersecurity, telecommunications, and satellite technology. Previously a litigation partner with the leading international law firm of Morrison & Foerster, she tried and settled complex disputes in countless federal courts across the country. She was later appointed as a full-time judicial officer with the California Superior Court, where she presided over thousands of civil cases and discovery matters. As a former judicial officer, Diana has hands-on experience helping parties resolve their disputes and crafting well-reasoned legal opinions after careful consideration of all arguments and the governing law. Her multi-faceted career has provided her with a well-rounded perspective for resolving disputes. An attorney in mediation with Diana commented, "She did a great job. She was prepared, had a strategy for how to help these parties settle this case, gave an accurate and fair evaluation, had a good sense of pushing the right amount, and executed well on the strategy to settle." Diana has earned a reputation for being thoroughly prepared and is known for coming up with creative solutions. Her direct and persistent approach is balanced by her warm and outgoing personality, which allows her to connect with the parties and move settlement discussions forward.

LEGAL CAREER & PRIOR EXPERIENCE

- Full-time Neutral, Judicate West (2021-Present)
- Adjunct Professor, University of California, Hastings College of the Law (2016-Present)
- Mediator, Arbitrator, Discovery Referee, California Superior Court, Most Bay Area Courts (2021 – Present)
- Commissioner, California Superior Court, Contra Costa County (2019-2020)
- Morrison & Foerster, Litigation Department, Associate (2006-2015); Partner (2016-2019)
- Law Clerk for Chief Judge James Ware, Federal Clerkship, Northern District of California (2010-2011)

EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- J.D. Hastings College of the Law, magna cum laude (2006)
- B.A. New York University (2001)
- California Superior Court New Judges Training & Orientation (2019)
- Arbitrator Training, American Arbitration Association (2021)
- Higginbotham Fellowship Training, American Arbitration Association (2016)
- U.C. Berkeley Conflict Resolution & Mediation Program (2017)
- President Elect and Board Member of Jewish Bar Association of San Francisco, 2017-current (presidency beginning 2021)
- Appointed to California Access to Justice Commission (2021-Current)
- Appointed by Mayor of San Francisco to Citizen's Committee on Community Development (2017-2019)
- Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights, Fundraising Chair and Board Member (2016-2019)
- Bar Association of San Francisco (BASF), Secretary and Board Member, Barristers Club (2014-2016)
- Playmates Cooperative Nursery School, President of Board of Directors (2016-2018)
- Executive Committee, Intellectual Property Section, BASF, Board Member (2016-2019)
- Board member of U.C. Hastings Board of Governors (2021-Present)

PRACTICE AREAS

- Bay Area Urban Debate League, Firm Chair of Champions of Diversity (2011-2019)
- California Judges Association, National Association of Women’s Judges, International Association of LGBT Judges, Bar Association of San Francisco, ABA, Queen’s Bench, California Women Lawyers, & BALIF, Member

Cannabis; Complex Business/Contractual; Construction; Employment; Federal Matters; Healthcare; Insurance; Intellectual Property; Personal Injury; Probate; Real Estate

ACHIEVEMENTS & AWARDS

- “Teacher of the Year” Award, LWR Department, U.C. Hastings (2019)
- “Legal Lion” Award by Law360 (2018)
- “Intellectual Property Trailblazer” Award by the National Law Journal (2017)
- “Inspiring Role Model in Promoting Gender Diversity” Award Finalist by Chambers (2017)
- “Best LGBT Lawyers Under 40” Award by the National LGBT Bar Association (2017)
- “Copyright Litigation Lawyer of the Year in California” Award by Corporate INTL Magazine (2017)
- “Top 40 Attorneys Under 40” Award by the Daily Journal (2016)
- Inducted into the Fellowship of the American Bar Foundation (2016)
- “A. Leon Higginbotham Fellow” by the American Arbitration Association (2016)
- “Rising Star” in Northern California for six years in a row by Super Lawyers Magazine (2013-2018)
- “Barrister of the Year” Award by the Bar Association of San Francisco (2013)

HOBBIES & INTERESTS

Diana enjoys fly-fishing, trying hole-in-the-wall restaurants, and exploring Golden Gate Park with her dogs, Bulldozer, Demolition, and Tiny. She is an avid boxing fan and a terrible poker player. In her spare time, Diana plays the violin, builds mid-century modern dollhouse furniture, and loves searching for dinosaur bones with her three young children. Diana also enjoys binge-watching TV shows (like Ru Paul’s Drag Race, the Jinx, Arrested Development, Deadwood, and – of course – Game of Thrones).

LOCATIONS

Northern California, All of California