



Hon. Emily E. Vasquez, Ret.



Results Beyond Dispute™

Judge Emily E. Vasquez (ret.) brings over four decades of distinguished legal and judicial experience as a civil and criminal litigator in state and federal courts, a Superior Court Judge for two decades (including five years handling complex civil litigation), and experience as a mediator, arbitrator and special master. During her tenure on the Court, Judge Vasquez issued decisions on hundreds of cases involving a wide range of constitutional, statutory, and other legal questions, including presiding over close to 400 jury trials in civil and criminal law. She brings her legal acumen, common sense, integrity, and invaluable insights to the dispute resolution process. As a Neutral, she has handled a variety of civil matters, ranging from commercial contract disputes, trade secrets, employment law, education law, civil rights, housing law, real property, personal injury, medical malpractice, wrongful death, sexual assault cases to class actions, including PAGA matters. Judge Vasquez understands the importance of diligent and conscientious pre-mediation preparation and gaining the trust and confidence of the parties and attorneys for a successful resolution. As a Mediator, she has developed a reputation for settling challenging legal disputes and is known for her clear and focused understanding of the factual and legal issues and understanding the personal dynamics of the parties. Judge Vasquez is a trusted and effective Neutral. Lastly, in addition to her work as a Neutral, Judge Vasquez is currently the Tribal Court Appellate Judge for the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation adjudicating appeals from the Tribal Trial Commission. Prior to her judicial appointment, she was a shareholder in a prominent law firm in Sacramento, where she specialized in labor and employment litigation, including class action lawsuits, in state and federal court at both the trial and appellate levels. She practiced law for 24 years, providing a broad range of civil litigation experience involving commercial disputes, education law, professional malpractice, personal injury, housing law, real property, and labor & employment. Judge Vasquez's dedication to the judiciary, the legal profession, and the community is demonstrated by a lifetime of accomplishments and activities. She has been the recipient of numerous prestigious honors and awards for her professional excellence and community service. Notably, she was honored by the American Board of Trial Advocates ("ABOTA") with the "Judge of the Year Award" (2022) for her "integrity, fairness and professionalism during her tenure on the Sacramento County Superior Court." In 2019, Judge Vasquez was recognized as "Judge of the Year" by the Sacramento County Bar Association for her "stellar legal abilities, calm judicial demeanor, and commitment to the fair and equitable administration of the courts." A top litigator stated, "Judge Vasquez's masterful approach to mediation transformed what began as an extremely contentious [class action/PAGA] employment matter into a successfully resolved case. Her creative solutions and ability to reframe core issues opened new pathways to resolution that neither party had previously considered. Her reputation is so well-regarded that another Judge, upon learning of her involvement as Mediator, streamlined procedural requirements based solely on his confidence in her capabilities. Her combination of deep legal expertise and innovative problem-solving makes her an exceptional choice for complex employment law mediations."

LEGAL CAREER & PRIOR EXPERIENCE

- Neutral, JUDICATE West (2022-Present)
- Tribal Appellate Court Judge for the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation (2025-Present); Adjudicate at the appellate level contract disputes and employment discrimination claims
- Judge, Sacramento Superior Court; Presided over a general trial department, including criminal and civil jury trials, bench trials and preliminary hearings, and complex civil litigation. She decided hundreds of cases involving a wide range of constitutional, statutory, and other legal questions. She also updated the Sacramento Superior Court's "Harassment, Discrimination, Retaliation, and

EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Inappropriate Workplace Conduct Prevention, Complaint Resolution Policy" currently in effect today for the Court. (2001-2022)
 - California Supreme Court State Bar Trustees Nomination Committee, Chairperson (2017-2022)
 - Shareholder, Kronick, Moskovitz, Tiedemann & Girard; Emphasis in matters related to labor, employment discrimination, wrongful discharge, drug testing, education law, and personnel policy issues. Litigation was in federal and state courts (both trial and appellate levels) and before administrative agencies. Litigation included the representation of clients in individual and class action cases. (1993-2001)
 - Assistant Public Defender, Office of the Public Defender, Sacramento County (1985-1993)
 - Director and Chairwoman of the Sacramento Regional Transit Board of Directors, appointed by the Mayor of Sacramento; During her tenure, the public transit agency built, completed, and opened a highly successful light rail system in Sacramento County (1984-1992)
 - Appellate Attorney, General Counsel's office, Public Employment Relations Board (1983-1985)
 - Commission Counsel, Fair Employment and Housing Commission (1981-1983)
 - Staff Attorney, California Rural Legal Assistance; General civil practice with an emphasis on education law, landlord-tenant law, debt collection defense, automobile injury, governmental benefit programs, and employment issues (1977-1981)
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- Strauss Institute for Dispute Resolution, Pepperdine/Caruso School of Law, Mediating the Litigated Case: The Art of Facilitating Settlement (October 2022)
 - J.D. University of California, Berkeley School of Law (1977)
 - B.A University of California, Davis; Regents Scholar (1970-1974)
 - California Judicial Council: Court Technology Advisory Committee (2002-2015); Co-Chair of the Outreach Subcommittee
 - CJER Faculty Member; Providing ethics, labor and employment law, and e-business training to judges throughout California (2005-2012)
 - National Association of Women Judges, Lifetime Member
 - American Judges Association, Member (2008-Present)
 - Federal Bar Association, Member (2010-Present)
 - California Judges Association, Member (2001-Present)
 - California Latino Judges Association, Member (2001-Present)
 - California Women Lawyers, Member (2002-Present)
 - Sacramento County Bar Association, Member (1981-Present)
 - Cruz Reynoso Bar Association of Sacramento (Formerly La Raza Lawyers Association); Member (1981- Present)
 - Women Lawyers of Sacramento, Member (1981-Present)
 - Wiley W. Manuel Bar Association, Member (2009-2022)
 - American Inns of Court (Schwartz/Levi Chapter; President 2015-2018); Member of Executive Committee and "Mentor" to law students (2002-Present)
 - Berkeley Law Alumni Association (1977-Present)
 - U.C. Davis Alumni Association, Lifetime Member
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PRACTICE AREAS

All Types of Employment Matters including Class Actions and PAGA; Appellate; Business/Contractual; Elder Abuse; Personal Injury including Sexual Assault/Wrongful Death; Professional Malpractice; Real Estate

ACHIEVEMENTS & AWARDS

- Alba Witkin Humanitarian Award, California Judges Association (2024)
- Legacy Estrella Award, Sacramento Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (2023)
- Ohtli Award, Presented by the Government of Mexico (2022)

- Judge of the Year Award, American Board of Trial Advocates – ABOTA (2022)
- Defensora de Justicia Award, Cruz Reynoso Bar Association (2022)
- Inaugural Judge Emily E. Vasquez Community Service Award, Schwartz/Levi Inn of Court and U.C Davis School of Law (2022)
- Published article in Sacramento Lawyer Magazine, 'Remembering Justice Cruz Reynoso' (2021)
- Published article in Sacramento Lawyer Magazine, 'Remembering Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg' (2020)
- Judge of the Year Award, Sacramento County Bar Association (2019)
- Recognition by the California Senate for leadership, integrity, and service to the cause of justice for all (2019)
- Joe Serna, Jr., Lifetime of Community Service Award (2019)
- Honorary Degree of Juris Doctor from Lincoln Law School, Sacramento (2013)
- Certificate of Appreciation, Capitol City Trial Lawyers Association (2012)
- Certificate of Appreciation, Health Education Council (2011)
- Women Who Mean Business Award, Sacramento Business Journal (2008)
- Rose Bird Memorial Award, California Women Lawyers (2008)
- Outstanding Latina of the Year, Sacramento Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (2008)
- Frances Newell Carr Achievement Award, Women Lawyers of Sacramento (2006)
- Humanitarian of the Year Award, Sacramento County Bar Association (2001)
- Authored "Advancing Access to Justice through Technology: Guiding Principles for California Judicial Branch Initiatives" which is still in effect today in CA's judicial branch and used as a model nationwide

HOBBIES & INTERESTS

Judge Vasquez is fluent in Spanish (speaking and writing). She is passionate about learning as much as she can about communities and people all over the world, having spent her junior year in college attending the University of Madrid in Spain. Aside from enjoying travel in her spare time, she also enjoys hiking, reading, and public service. She continues to assist the local law schools, colleges, high schools, and bar associations as a guest lecturer on a myriad of subjects. She is a leader in the community dedicating her time to several charitable organizations, and she is President of the Board of Directors of the Health Education Council, which provides health education to at-risk adults and children.

LOCATIONS

Northern California, All of California