



Hon. Emily E. Vasquez, Ret.



Results Beyond DisputeSM

Judge Vasquez served for two decades on the Sacramento County Superior Court, including two years on its appellate panel, presiding over hundreds of civil and complex civil litigation matters, including PAGA & class actions, law and motion, and settlement conferences resolving disputes in a variety of civil matters, ranging from commercial contract disputes to labor and employment, personal injury, medical malpractice, wrongful death, and sexual assault cases. During her tenure on the Court, she 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. 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 law litigation experience involving commercial disputes, education law, professional malpractice, personal injury, housing law, real property, and labor & employment. Judge Vasquez is available to serve as a mediator, arbitrator, special master, and early neutral case evaluator. 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 is one of the most sincere and diligent judges I have been before. She really cares about the litigants and jurors. She always demonstrates kindness and has a great work ethic.”

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

- Neutral, Judicate West (2022-Present)
- 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 Inappropriate Workplace Conduct Prevention, Complaint Resolution Policy” currently in effect today for the Court. (2001-2022)

EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- 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)

PRACTICE AREAS

All Types of Employment Matters including Class Actions and PAGA, Americans with Disabilities Act, Business/Contractual, Civil Rights, Education Law, Government/Public Agency, Lemon Law, Medical Negligence, Personal Injury including Sexual Assault/Wrongful Death, Professional Malpractice

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Legacy Estrella Award, Sacramento Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (2023)

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