



Hon. Yvette M. Palazuelos, Ret.



Results Beyond DisputeSM

Judge Palazuelos joins Judicate West, following 24 years of distinguished service to the Los Angeles County Superior Court. She was appointed to the bench in 2000, presiding over the individual civil calendar across all manner of civil matters. Since 2019, she was tapped to exclusively preside over complex civil cases, including mass torts, class actions, and business disputes. For the decade preceding her appointment, she served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Central District of California, prosecuting all kinds of federal criminal matters. She began her career as a litigation associate, defending insurance companies. Active in the legal community, Judge Palazuelos served on numerous committees for the Los Angeles Superior Court, including the Executive Committee and the Diversity and Inclusion Committee. She is a trustee of the Mexican American Bar Foundation, served as a board member for the California Judges Association, and is a founder and past president of the Latino Lawyers Association. Her vast array of experience in all types of cases while on the bench brings remarkable insight to her role as a neutral. This experience, coupled with her calm, genial, and patient demeanor, position her as an exceptional facilitator of resolution.

LEGAL CAREER & PRIOR EXPERIENCE

- Full-time Neutral, Judicate West (2024-Present)
- Judge, Los Angeles County Superior Court (2000-2024); Presided over complex civil cases since 2019; Presided over individual civil calendar consisting of unlimited jurisdiction cases; California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) judge; Presided over individual criminal calendar
- Assistant U.S. Attorney, U.S. Attorney's Office in Los Angeles (1990-2000); Prosecuted defendants in federal criminal cases
- Associate, Buchalter, Nemer, Fields & Younger (1987-1990); Defended insurance companies in federal and state civil cases, mainly declaratory relief actions or bad faith lawsuits

EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- J.D., Columbia University School of Law (1984-1987)
- B.A., Stanford University (1981-1984)
- Associate Member of The Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CiArb) (2025)
- Mediating the Litigated Case, Straus Institute, Pepperdine University School of Law (2023)
- Member of various Los Angeles County Superior Court Committees (2007-2024)
- Adjunct Professor, Southwestern Law School; Taught Trial Advocacy + California Civil Procedure; Served as Semi-Final Round Judge on Intramural Moot Court Competition (2014-2017)
- California Judges Association, Board Member (2015-2017); Compensation + Benefits Committee Member (2015-Present); California Judges Foundation Member (2018-Present)
- Mexican American Bar Foundation, Trustee (2007-Present)
- Justice Carlos Moreno Inn of Court, Judicial Advisor (2009-2010)
- Latino Lawyers Association, Founder, President, Board of Directors (1987-1998)

PRACTICE AREAS

All types of Personal Injury including Mass Tort, Sexual Assault, and Wrongful Death; Business; Construction Defect; Employment including Class Action; Environmental Law including CEQA and Groundwater Rights; Governmental; Insurance; Lemon Law; Real Estate; Trade Secrets; Voting Rights

ACHIEVEMENTS & AWARDS

- Presiding Judge's Leadership Award, LA Superior Court's D&I Workshop (2021)
- Judge of the Year Award, Korean Community Lawyers Association (2017)
- Francisca Flores Community Service Award, Latina Lawyers Bar Association (2016)

HOBBIES & INTERESTS

- Benjamin Aranda III Judge of the Year Award, Mexican American Bar Association (2014)
- Speaker for multiple organizations including CAALA, CELA, LACBA + ABOTA

In her free time, Judge Palazuelos enjoys traveling, hiking, and scrapbooking.

LOCATIONS

Los Angeles, All of California