

LATINAS IN LAW

An Event Honoring Great
Women in the Legal Profession

Hon. Karlene Navarro



Karlene Navarro was appointed to be a judge of the Superior Court of California by Governor Gavin Newsom on November 10, 2021. She graduated from UC Irvine with a BA in Political Science and a minor in Chicano-Latino Studies in 1999. Judge Navarro attended the University of San Francisco School of Law and graduated in 2006.

In January of 2024, Judge Navarro transferred from her position in a felony, criminal trial department to preside over Sonoma County's mental health courts including mental health diversion, FACT court, CARE court, and LPS conservatorships. Since September of 2024, under J. Navarro's direction, the Sonoma County Superior Court has been awarded grants totaling 2.7 million dollars for mental health diversion court. With the grant funding, J. Navarro is developing an assertive community treatment program focusing on providing housing, medication, and wrap around services such as drug treatment, specialized mental health therapy, and one-on-one case management for mental health diversion participants. In addition to mental health court, Judge Navarro also oversees all of the post-conviction Racial Justice Act petitions. She has been on the Sonoma County Appellate Panel since June of 2022 and currently serves as its presiding judge. She is also the chair of the court's judicial outreach committee. Prior to being appointed to the bench, Judge Navarro had a private practice as a criminal defense attorney and appellate attorney. While in private practice, she taught Legal Research, Writing and Analysis at the University of San Francisco School of Law and was an appellate attorney for the First District Appellate Project and the Sixth District Appellate Program. Judge Navarro started her career as a deputy public defender in 2007.

Tania Partida



A Deputy District Attorney with over 20 years of experience at the Sonoma County District Attorney's Office, I have specialized in prosecuting cases involving domestic violence, sexual assault, gangs, and homicides. I am a first-generation Mexican American, fluent in Spanish and English, and the first in my family to graduate from college and law school. My path to becoming a prosecutor was shaped by my early work at a domestic violence shelter and my personal experiences, fueling my commitment to seeking justice for women and children. I earned my B.S. in Law and Society from UCSB and my J.D. from Santa Barbara College of Law while working full time.

Magdalena R. McQuilla



Magdalena McQuilla is a shareholder at Geary, Shea, O'Donnell, Grattan & Mitchell, the first Latino shareholder in the firm's nearly 70-year history. Her mother's family is from Northern Mexico and the Arizona borderlands and she is a first-generation attorney on both sides of her family. Her practice focuses on small business advice, plaintiff-side employment discrimination and retaliation claims, and litigation of business, property, and public entity disputes.

Jaidee A. Serrano



Ms. Serrano graduated from the Inter American University, Metropolitan Campus with a B.A. in History and continued to the Inter American School of Law in San Juan, Puerto Rico. She later obtained a LL.M. in Federal Trial Advocacy from California Western School of Law in San Diego, California. Before commencing her practice in the United States, Ms. Serrano began her criminal defense practice in Puerto Rico before all Spanish speaking courts. She has litigated in federal and state courts, including prosecuting appeals and writs. She also enjoys teaching at Spanish TSA seminars. On weekends, her Saturday mornings are committed to gardening and volunteering her time at a local horse farm.

Thursday, October 23rd, 2025 @ 12:00pm - 1:15pm

IN PERSON
COURTROOM 13



\$40 SCWiL Member

\$55 non-member

\$30 students

1 hour MCLE credit including
1 hour of Recognition and Elimination
of Bias subfield credit

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