

NEWS RELEASE

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA

COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO



BRANDON E. RILEY
Court Executive Officer

400 McAllister St.
San Francisco, CA
94102

Contact: Ann E. Donlan
media@sftc.org

RELEASE DATE: April 22, 2025

JUDGE SUZANNE RAMOS BOLANOS ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT AFTER A DISTINGUISHED JUDICIAL CAREER WITH FOCUS ON DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION OF THE JUDICIARY AND PROMOTION OF DIVERSITY IN THE LEGAL PROFESSION

Judge Suzanne Ramos Bolanos, a longtime jurist who has served in complex and high-profile assignments in the civil, criminal and juvenile divisions, is retiring after serving nearly 22 years on the San Francisco Superior Court bench.

In addition to her work as a trial court judge, Judge Bolanos regularly contributed to educating fellow jurists in the Bay Area and statewide. She was an energetic and committed champion for diversity and elimination of bias efforts, serving in leadership posts locally and statewide to promote fairness, equity and inclusion in the judiciary.

Presiding Judge Rochelle East thanked Judge Bolanos for serving as one of the bench's top trial judges in the civil and criminal divisions and offered gratitude for her enduring contributions on and off the bench.

"Judge Bolanos has been an invaluable member of our bench, with over two decades of experience handling the most complicated and difficult matters," Presiding Judge East said. "Her contributions have extended far beyond the courtroom and include years of community outreach and judicial education. Her lifelong commitment to fairness and justice is exemplary, and she will be deeply missed by her fellow bench officers and court staff. The entire Court wishes her a happy and fulfilling retirement."

Judge Bolanos thanked Presiding Judge East, her other colleagues and court staff for making the Court an integral part of her life for these many memorable years.

"I think of the Court as my family," Judge Bolanos said. "I have deep respect for my judicial colleagues for their vast legal knowledge, commitment to equal access to justice, and their cherished camaraderie. It has been an immense honor to serve on this distinguished bench alongside our talented and committed staff to serve San Franciscans for more than two decades."

Significant Experience in Handling Important and Complex Trials and Juvenile Matters

Appointed in 2003 by Governor Gray Davis, Judge Bolanos has handled some of the Court's most complex and high profile civil and criminal matters in the Civic Center Courthouse and Hall of

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JUDGE BOLANOS/SFSC/2-2-2-2

Justice in her more than two-decade tenure. With her utility and expertise in different areas of law, Judge Bolanos also has presided over juvenile matters in the Unified Family Court.

Leadership in Development and Education of the Judiciary

Judge Bolanos eagerly has contributed to various judicial educational efforts, including serving since 2013 as a faculty member for New Judges Orientation. She also has educated jurists through the Judicial Council's Center for Judicial Education and Research program as well as trainings offered by the California Judges Association (CJA). In her service to CJA, she has served many times on committees and helped to organize the CJA Annual Conference.

Her vast knowledge of civil trial advocacy and criminal trial procedure led to her appointment to the Judicial Council Civil Jury Instructions Committee in 2014 – a role she has actively retained for more than a decade. She previously has served on the Judicial Council Law Advisory Committee.

Appointed to serve as the first Chair of the Court's Elimination of Bias Committee, she collaborated with fellow judges and members of the bar to organize anti-bias programming and outreach to help participants recognize, acknowledge and address bias in the judiciary and legal field. She also has served on the Court's Equity, Fairness and Inclusion Committee.

Service to the Community and Recognition

As Co-Chair of the award-winning Color of Justice Program from 2005-2019, Judge Bolanos was an enthusiastic outreach and mentor leader to underprivileged high school students interested in pursuing a career in the law. Along with other volunteers, she organized this well-received program and hosted hundreds of high school students for the Color of Justice event, including panel discussions featuring high-profile minority judges, justices and attorneys who shared their backgrounds and experiences on their journey to the bench or in the courtroom.

She served as the President of the California Latino Judges Association from 2016-2018 and served as Chair of its Judicial Endorsement Committee. She also is a lifetime member of the Hispanic National Bar Association and the San Francisco La Raza Lawyers Association (SFLRLA).

Judge Bolanos is the recipient of numerous commendations for service to the community, including the SFLRLA's Lifetime Achievement Award.

Judge Bolanos was the first Latina appointed to the San Francisco bench and is the recipient of numerous commendations for service to the community, including the St. Thomas More Award and the National Latino Peace Officers Association Woman of the Year Award.

Education and Early Career

Judge Bolanos, who grew up in Oakland, earned her undergraduate degree from the University of California, Berkeley, and her law degree from the Yale Law School.

Prior to her judicial career, she served as an Assistant United States Attorney. She also held several positions in Washington, D.C., including serving as a Special Assistant for Domestic Policy to Vice President Al Gore and as Counsel to Senator Edward Kennedy on the U.S. Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee.

She began her career as a civil rights attorney with the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, and also practiced law with the law firm of Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering in Washington, D.C.

The San Francisco bench is comprised of 52 judges and one commissioner.

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