

Pathways to the Bench



Friday, June 8, 2024

11:30 am - 5:30 pm

Milton Marks Conference Center, Lower Level
455 Golden Gate Ave., San Francisco

SPEAKER BIOS

Pathway to the Federal Bench

Speakers:

Daniel Suvor, Statewide Chair, Senator Padilla's Judicial Evaluation Com
Hon. Beth Freeman, District Judge, U.S. District Court, N.D. Cal.
Hon. Kandis Westmore, Magistrate Judge, U.S. District Court, N.D. Cal.
Louise Renne, Chair, Senator Butler's Judicial Selection Committee, Northern District

Moderator:

Jenn French, Partner, Lynch Carpenter, Chair, CLA/Litigation Section Federal Courts Committee

Speaker BIO

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Daniel R. Suvor

Partner

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Daniel is co-chair of O'Melveny's State Attorneys General Investigations and Litigation Group. He is an experienced litigator and strategic advisor who specializes in high-stakes litigation, government investigations and controversies, and regulatory matters. Daniel regularly handles government contract disputes, including bid protests at the state and local levels. His broad practice encompasses products liability, healthcare, environmental, technology, financial services, and white collar and investigation matters that could appear before government agencies.

Daniel also represents government agencies in appellate litigation, investigations, and regulatory counseling matters.

Daniel previously served as Chief of Policy and Senior Counsel to California Attorney General Kamala D. Harris. In that position, he was a member of the four-person executive team that supervised and operated the 5,000-person California Department of Justice. As Harris's primary legal policy advisor, Daniel was responsible for developing and executing the Attorney General's policy initiatives and supervising some of the department's most complex and high-profile matters, covering healthcare, technology and privacy, criminal justice, civil rights, environmental and consumer law. As a result, he has a deep understanding of the national state attorney general landscape and the best strategies for engagement with AG's offices.

In 2009, Daniel was appointed by President Obama to serve at the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). From 2009-2013, he worked as a litigation attorney for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and as Special Assistant to the

Admissions

Bar Admissions

California

Court Admissions

US District Court for the Northern, Central, and Eastern Districts of California

US Court of Appeals, Second, Ninth, and District of Columbia Circuits

US Supreme Court

Education

George Washington University, J.D.

University of Southern California, B.A.

General Counsel of HHS. In those roles, Daniel counseled CMS and HHS on Affordable Care Act implementation, advising on statutory authority and Administrative Procedure Act issues for regulations and guidance documents and served as HHS' lead agency counsel on dozens of constitutional challenges to the Affordable Care Act, including the *NFIB v. Sebelius* case.

Daniel later served in the Obama White House as senior director of the White House Office of Cabinet Affairs, where he coordinated logistics, communications and policy between the President and his domestic cabinet agencies (including HHS and the U.S. Department of Justice).

Daniel maintains a dynamic pro bono practice and is active in several community organizations. He also serves as statewide chair of U.S. Senator Alex Padilla's judicial evaluation commission.

In 2013, he won the national Hispanic Health Leadership Award from the National Hispanic Medical Association and in 2014 was selected by the Huffington Post as one of the 40 Under 40 Hispanics in American Politics. In 2016, he was selected by the American Bar Association as one of the Top 40 Young Lawyers in the United States. In 2017, he was named to Latino Leaders Magazine's "Top Latino Lawyers".

Professional Activities

Speaking Engagements

- "The Regulator Perspective," California Privacy Law, Practising Law Institute (October 2020)
- "The Regulator Perspective," California Privacy Law, Practising Law Institute (September 2019)

Honors & Awards

- Recognized by *Chambers USA* for State Attorneys General (2023)
- Recognized by *Benchmark Litigation* as a "Future Star" (2023-2024)
- Recommended by *The Legal 500 US* for State Attorneys General (2023)
- Named to the "Top 40 Under 40" list of California attorneys by the *Daily Journal* (2020)
- Named to *Los Angeles Business Journal's* list of "Top Minority Attorneys in Los Angeles" (2020)
- Named to the 40 & Under Hot List for White-Collar Crime and Product Liability Litigation (2019-2022), General Litigation (2021) by *Benchmark Litigation*
- Named to *Latino Leaders Magazine's* "Top Latino Lawyers" (2017)

Hon. Beth Freeman

District Judge, District Judge, U. S. District Court, N.D.
Cal



Judge Beth Labson Freeman is a Judge on the Federal Court in the Northern District of California, appointed by President Obama in 2014. Judge Freeman sits in the San Jose Division, hearing a broad array of cases including antitrust, civil rights, consumer class actions, commercial litigation and technology cases including patent, trademark, copyright and trade secret cases. She serves on the Northern District's patent local rules and jury instruction committees. Judge Freeman previously was a Superior Court Judge in San Mateo County, California from 2001 to 2014. Judge Freeman served as Presiding Judge and Assistant Presiding Judge of the San Mateo Court.

Prior to her appointment to the bench in 2001, Judge Freeman was deputy county counsel in San Mateo County, and an associate attorney at Lasky, Haas and Cohler in San Francisco and Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver and Jacobson in Washington, D.C. Judge Freeman is a graduate of the Harvard Law School and University of California, Berkeley.



MAGISTRATE JUDGE Kandis A. Westmore

Oakland Courthouse

Year Appointed: 2012

Magistrate Judge Kandis A. Westmore was appointed in February 2012. Since then, she has presided over a wide variety of consent cases, involving contracts, commercial law, civil rights, employment, patent, trademark, and copyright infringement, securities, administrative and constitutional law, immigration, environmental, and personal injury. She also conducts settlement conferences and manages discovery, including in nationwide class actions and multi-district litigation. Judge Westmore currently serves on the court's Personnel Committee, co-leads the court's Convictions Alternatives Program ("CAP"), and presides over CAP Aftercare Court, which follows CAP graduates for the first year of their probation and as otherwise needed.

Judge Westmore's legal career began as a law clerk with the Contra Costa County Public Defender's Office, before obtaining her first attorney position at an Oakland-based boutique law firm specializing in plaintiffs' civil rights litigation.

She joined the Oakland City Attorney's Office in 1999 as a Deputy City Attorney. During her 13-year tenure with the City, she advised City agencies and served as both a trial attorney and a law and motion attorney, where she filed suit on behalf of the City and defended the City and its employees on a wide range of matters in federal and state trial and appellate courts, including civil rights, personal injury, inverse condemnation,

labor and employment, and complex litigation. Judge Westmore has been publicly recognized by community organizations, the City of Oakland, and elected officials for her contributions and service to the City of Oakland and its residents.

Prior to taking the bench, Judge Westmore served as President-Elect of the Alameda County Bar Association ("ACBA"), and volunteered for the ACBA Volunteer Legal Services Corporation's Pro Bono Program representing low-income individuals in family law cases. She also served as the President of the Earl Warren American Inns of Court in 2017. Judge Westmore has been a member of the Charles Houston Bar Association ("CBHA") since 1998, and she received the CHBA Guardian of Justice Award in 2018. She also received the Judicial Excellence Award from Black Women Lawyers of Northern California in 2022.

She received her B.A. from the University of California, Berkeley and her J.D. from the University of San Francisco, School of Law, all while working full-time and being a wife and mother of two young children. As a law student, Judge Westmore served as a judicial extern to the Honorable Sandra Brown Armstrong. In 2023, Judge Westmore became an adjunct professor at USF School of Law, where she teaches a judicial externship course. Previously, Judge Westmore taught Honors Evidence at the Golden Gate University School of Law.



Louise Renne
Partner

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Practice Areas

- Public Interest
- Municipal Law

Bar Admission

- California
- District of Columbia

Education

- Columbia University School of Law, JD
- Michigan State University, BA

Experience

Louise Renne is a founding partner of Renne Public Law Group, and was previously a founding partner of Renne Sloan Holtzman Sakai Public Law Group. She leads the firm's public interest litigation. Ms. Renne pioneered the model of public interest plaintiff coalitions comprised of government agencies, individuals, and non-profit organizations during her 16-year tenure as San Francisco City Attorney. She is known for transforming the traditionally defense-oriented practice of municipal law by creating an affirmative litigation program that won significant victories for cities and counties in California. As a nationally recognized and respected leader in municipal law, she often testifies before federal, state, and other governmental bodies. She is also frequently requested to conduct impartial investigations for local public agencies in high-profile cases.

Some of the public interest cases Ms. Renne has directed include:

- A certified national class action involving 250,000 victims, national and state putative class actions, and individual lawsuits involving elder financial abuse. These suits were brought on behalf of senior citizens against insurance companies, banks, and other entities for the sale of inappropriate annuity products to seniors.
- A lawsuit on behalf of African American employees in private industry for race discrimination, retaliation, and harassment.
- Numerous class-action suits brought on behalf of local public agencies against energy producers, tobacco companies, national banks, gun manufacturers, auto insurers and escrow companies.

RELATED EXPERIENCE

Ms. Renne previously served for 16 years as the elected City Attorney for the City and County of San Francisco. As City Attorney she was responsible for providing legal expertise and services to more than 60 operating departments and commissions, each tasked with providing essential government services. She modernized the City Attorney's office, establishing it as a national leader in the practice of public law by creating a vigorous and enterprising 200-lawyer legal department of highly-skilled litigators, negotiators, and advisory attorneys. She energized and streamlined the Office's advice function, building widely respected legal expertise in every area of municipal operations, ranging

from traditional fields such as land use and public safety to the cutting-edge areas of energy regulation and telecommunications.

Ms. Renne also served as General Counsel for the San Francisco Unified School District where she led the effort to combat corruption existing at the time and established an in-house legal department, and as the City Attorney for the City of Richmond.

Her prior experience includes:

- Member of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors for 8 years, where she was chair of the Finance Committee.
- California Deputy Attorney General for 11 years. She served in the environmental and criminal divisions, and argued on behalf of the state before the California Supreme Court and the United States Supreme Court.
- Worked in private practice for 2 years.
- Staff attorney in the General Counsel's Office at the Federal Communications Commission for 3 years.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

- Allies United for Children, Chair, Board of Directors
- San Francisco Fine Arts Museums, former member, Board of Directors
- San Francisco Police Commission, former President
- Volunteers of Laguna Honda Hospital, former member, Board of Directors
- American Cancer Society, San Francisco Chapter, former member, Board of Directors
- Friends of the Children, San Francisco Chapter, former Chair, Board of Directors
- PGA's First Tee program, former member, Board of Directors
- California Regional Water Quality Control Board, former member
- Golden Gate Bridge District, former member, Board of Directors
- California Women Lawyers, former President

Jenn French

Partner, Lynch Carpenter, LLP



Jenn French is a partner in Lynch Carpenter, LLP's San Diego office, where she represents plaintiffs in complex class action litigation involving privacy, employee wage and hour, and consumer protection. She is a Wisconsin native and studied vocal performance at Lawrence University before graduating with a degree in psychology from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Jenn earned her J.D. cum laude from the University of San Diego School of Law. She began her legal career at the prestigious national law firm of Cooley LLP, where she second-chaired an eight-week federal criminal jury trial in her third year of practice. In 2019, Jenn became Of Counsel with Patterson Law Group and managed the firm's class action practice from pre-trial through appeal, securing tens of millions of dollars for consumers and employees.

Jenn is passionate about increasing access to justice and giving back to her community. In December 2023, she became a panel attorney with Appellate Defenders, Inc., where she serves as court-appointed counsel in criminal appellate cases. Jenn also serves as pro bono counsel through Casa Cornelia Law Center, the San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program, and the Southern District of California's Pro Bono Panel. She has donated hundreds of hours to serving San Diego's most vulnerable populations, and in recognition of these efforts, California Senate President pro Tempore Emeritus Toni G. Atkins recognized Jenn as one of the 2023 Women of the 39th District.

Jenn is serving her second term on the Federal Bar Association's Civics, Service, and Outreach Committee and sits on the San Diego FBA Chapter's Board of Directors, where she is the Vice President of Court Engagement. Jenn is the chair of the California Lawyers Association's Federal Courts Committee, and she serves on CLA's Litigation Section Executive Committee and Racial Justice Committee. Jenn is also an editor of CLA's monthly Litigation Update and a member of the National Organization of Women Lawyer's Women Lawyers Journal Editorial Board. She is a Master in the Louis M. Welsh Chapter of the American Inn of Court and an active member of Consumer Attorneys of San Diego and Consumer Attorneys of California. Jenn also volunteers in the San Diego County Bar Association as the Vice-Chair of the Leadership Speaker Series, the Programming Chair of the Appellate Practice Section, the Co-Chair of the DEI Division's Dialogue on Diversity program, and a member of the 2024 San Diego Lawyer Editorial Committee. Finally, Jenn coaches a local high school in the San Diego County High School Mock Trial Tournament.

Jenn has been recognized by her peers as a Rising Star in 2014 and 2017-2019 and as a Super Lawyer since 2022. She is a multi-year recipient of the California State Bar/California Lawyers Association's Wiley W. Manuel Certificate for Pro Bono Legal Services. Jenn also received San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program's Distinguished

Service Award in 2023 and Casa Cornelia's Pro Publico Attorney award in 2020. In addition to practicing law, Jenn is a freelance soprano soloist and a staff singer at St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral. She lives with her husband and two cats in the Hillcrest neighborhood of San Diego.