

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

A Deeper Dive into the Superior Court and Appellate Court Appointment Processes

Speakers:

Hon. Tracie L. Brown, Justice, California Court of Appeal, First Appellate District,
Presiding Justice, Division Four

Hon. Anne-Christine Massullo, Presiding Judge, SFSC

Hon. Suzanne Bolanos, Judge, Superior Court of San Francisco

Terrance J. Evans, Member, Bar Association of San Francisco's Judiciary
Committee

Speaker Bios

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Hon. Tracie L. Brown

Justice, California Court of Appeal, First Appellate District, Presiding Justice, Division Four



Hon. Tracie L. Brown, Justice, California Court of Appeal, First Appellate District, Presiding Justice, Division Four

Justice Tracie L. Brown was appointed to the First District Court of Appeal by Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr., in November 2018. She served as an Associate Justice in Division Four until January 2023, when Governor Gavin Newsom appointed her to the position of Presiding Justice of Division Four.

Before her appointment, Justice Brown served for five years on the San Francisco Superior Court, where she presided over a wide variety of criminal cases, including the Domestic Violence Court. She was also twice elected to the Superior Court's Executive Committee.

Justice Brown graduated Phi Beta Kappa and *magna cum laude* from Harvard University in 1992. After working in Japan, she received a J.D. from the University of California, Berkeley School of Law in 1996. After law school, Justice Brown clerked for Judge M. Margaret McKeown on the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. She worked as an associate for Morrison & Foerster LLP and Cooley LLP before joining the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of California. As an Assistant U.S. Attorney, Justice Brown tried numerous civil and criminal cases and argued several cases before the Ninth Circuit.

In 2002, Justice Brown received the California State Bar's Jack Berman Award for Distinguished Service to the Profession and the Public, based on her extensive work on a *pro bono* case representing San Francisco's Japanese American community. In 2003, she received the Asian American Bar Association's Joe Morozumi Award for Exceptional Legal Advocacy. In 2013, Judge Brown was honored with a United States Department of Justice Director's Award for her work on a successful trial involving a massive online "pill mill," through which three defendants unlawfully distributed millions of doses of controlled substances.

In addition, Justice Brown has taught trial advocacy at the University of California, Berkeley School of Law and Stanford Law School, and she has served as a mentor and frequent speaker for the Asian American Bar Association and the Bar Association of San Francisco.

The Honorable Anne-Christine Massullo

Presiding Judge, San Francisco Court



Judge Massullo was appointed to the bench in June 2006 by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. She became the Presiding Judge of San Francisco Court on January 1, 2023.

Judge Massullo received her B.A. in business administration from University of Notre Dame and her J.D. from the University of Michigan Law School.

Before becoming the Presiding Judge, Judge Massullo was assigned to one of two Complex Litigation Departments in the court. She also served as the Supervising Judge of the Unified Family Court in San Francisco, and she spent four years as a felony trial judge prior to her civil assignments. Judge Massullo was also specially appointed to the San Mateo Superior Court for a two-year period, 2020-2022, to handle a habeas hearing in a high-profile death-penalty case.

Judge Massullo previously served as the Presiding Judge for the Appellate Panel of the San Francisco Superior Court and was Chair of the Adult Probation Oversight Committee during her time at the Hall of Justice. She currently serves as a member of the California State Federal Judicial Council.

Prior to her appointment to the Bench, Judge Massullo served as an Assistant United States Attorney for 17 years managing both civil matters and criminal prosecutions.

Hon. Suzanne Ramos Bolanos

Judge, Superior Court of California, County of San Francisco



Suzanne Ramos Bolanos was appointed to the San Francisco Superior Court in September 2003, by Governor Gray Davis. She was the first Latina judge to be appointed to the San Francisco Superior Court.

Currently Judge Bolanos presides over civil trials. During her 20 years on the bench, she has acquired significant experience in handling important and complex civil, criminal, and juvenile matters. Whether by official assignment or to cover certain courtrooms in a time of need, she has sat in nearly every assignment at the Court from collaborative courts to law and motion. She served as the Presiding Judge of the Appellate Division from 2009 to 2011. Judge Bolanos also sat pro tem in Division Four of the First District Court of Appeal in 2014.

In addition to her work as a trial court judge, Judge Bolanos regularly contributes to the development and education of the judiciary. She has served on the faculty for New Judges Orientation and has taught various classes through CJER and CJA (California Judges Association) with judges from throughout the state since 2013. Judge Bolanos was appointed by the Chief Justice to the Judicial Council Civil Jury Instructions Committee in 2014 and has been an active member of that committee since her appointment. She previously served on the Judicial Council Criminal Law Advisory Committee.

Judge Bolanos was the Chair of the California Judges Association (CJA) Government Relations Committee from 2019 to 2023.

At the San Francisco Superior Court, she is the Chair of the Elimination of Bias Committee and serves on the Equity, Fairness, and Inclusion Committee. She previously served on the Executive Committee, the Personnel Committee, the Technology Committee, the Collegiality Committee, and various other administrative committees. From 2005-2019 she was the Co-Chair of the award-winning Color of Justice Program, an outreach program for underprivileged high school students interested in pursuing a career in the law. The program was suspended due to COVID restrictions, but she plans to reinstate it once COVID restrictions are lifted.

Judge Bolanos was an Assistant United States Attorney from 1997 to 2003 and worked in both the criminal and civil divisions of the U.S. Attorney's office.

Prior to joining the U.S. Attorney's office, Judge Bolanos served as a Special Assistant for Domestic Policy to Vice President Gore. During her tenure at the Vice President's office, Judge Bolanos advised the Vice President on civil rights, immigration, and education issues.

Before joining the executive branch, Judge Bolanos served as Counsel to Senator Edward Kennedy (D-MA) on the U.S. Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee.

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

She grew up in Oakland, California and is a graduate of U.C. Berkeley and the Yale Law School.

Judge Bolanos has received numerous commendations for service to the community. In 2022 the San Francisco La Raza Lawyer's Association (SFLRLA) honored her with their Lifetime Achievement Award. In 2017 she received the St. Thomas More Award in recognition of her service to the community. In 2004 she was selected as the Woman of the Year by the National Latino Peace Officers Association and in 2005 received the Distinguished Leader Award from the San Francisco Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. In 2006 Judge Bolanos received the Unity Award from the Minority Bar Coalition of Northern California in recognition of her service to the minority legal community. The SFLRLA presented her with their Judge's Award in 2003 and 2007. In 2009 the San Francisco Board of Supervisors recognized Judge Bolanos for her outstanding contributions to the community as part of Women's History Month.

Judge Bolanos was President of the California Latino Judges Association (CLJA) from 2016-2018 and served as chair of the CLJA Judicial Endorsement Committee for several years. She is also a lifetime member of the Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA), the San Francisco La Raza Lawyers Association, and many other community organizations.

Terrance J. Evans

Partner, Duane Morris; Vice-Chair, California
Lawyers Association



Terrance J. Evans is a Partner in the San Francisco and Los Angeles offices of Duane Morris LLP, where he serves as the Co-Leader of the firm's [Banking and Financial Services](#) Practice. Mr. Evans is also the Co-Chair of the Duane Morris San Francisco Diversity and Inclusion Committee. His practice is focused on representing clients in federal and state trial and appellate courts across the United States including the United States Supreme Court. Mr. Evans also regularly counsels clients regarding racial justice and diversity and inclusion issues. He has led dozens of diversity trainings for judges, lawyers, law students, and members of the community around the United States.

Mr. Evans is the Immediate Past President of the Charles Houston Bar Association, the oldest Black Bar Association in California. He is the Co-Founder and Co-Chair of the CLA Racial Justice Committee; Immediate Past Chair of the Litigation Section of the California Lawyers Association; Co-Chair of the American Bar Association ICLC Diversity & Inclusion Committee, Member of the Bar Association of San Francisco Judicial & Finance Committees; Director of Region IX of the National Bar Association, and he is the first Black man elected to serve as a statewide representative on the Board of the California Lawyers Association. Mr. Evans is Vice Chair of the CLA Board of Representatives. Mr. Evans has spoken at more than 180 diversity, equity, and inclusion programs and civil rights programs in partnership with more than 65 law schools, bar associations, colleges, universities, high schools, law firms, churches, and other organizations. Mr. Evans also frequently appears on national and local television and radio discussing issues ranging from the United States Supreme Court and California courts to important legislation and civil rights issues.

In 2016, Mr. Evans was honored by the National Bar Association as one of the top African American attorneys in the USA under age 40. In 2017, he was honored by the Charles Houston Bar Association for his work promoting diversity and inclusion in the legal profession. In 2018, Mr. Evans was honored by the Minority Bar Coalition for his contributions to promoting diversity and inclusion throughout California. In 2019, Mr. Evans was honored by New Dawn Vallejo for his work

promoting diversity and inclusion and pro bono legal services. In 2020, Mr. Evans was recognized by Chambers for his efforts to promote diversity and inclusion throughout the United States. In 2021, Mr. Evans was honored by the Bar Association of San Francisco and Justice and Diversity Center for his diversity and inclusion work in Northern California and throughout the United States. In 2021, Mr. Evans was also honored by American Lawyer Magazine as a Trail Blazer.

In 2022 and 2023, Mr. Evans was honored by the Los Angeles Times as being one of the foremost leaders on diversity, equity, and inclusion issues in the State of California. In 2022, Mr. Evans was also honored by the Minority Bar Coalition for a second time for his efforts to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion throughout the United States. In 2024, Mr. Evans received the Cunningham Award from the California Association of Black Lawyers for his efforts to promote DEI throughout the United States. During his legal career, Mr. Evans has raised more than \$500,000 for scholarships for underprivileged students. Mr. Evans has also created five annual scholarship that have provided tens of thousands of dollars to under privileged students in the Asian, Black, Hispanic, Native American, and LGBTQ Communities.