

B I O G R A P H I E S



JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS SECRETARY LUIS CÉSPEDES

On December 10, 2020, Luis Céspedes was sworn in as Governor Gavin Newsom’s Judicial Appointments Secretary. Secretary Céspedes was born in Santa Maria, California and at the age of 15, went on strike with the United Farm Workers during their early struggle for better wages and working conditions for farmworkers. He earned a scholarship to Occidental College in Los Angeles, receiving both his B.A. and M.A. degrees.

Prior to attending U.C. Berkeley School of Law, Secretary Céspedes

participated in the prestigious CORO Foundation Fellowship Program which provides unique training in public affairs. Secretary Céspedes has served as Administrative Assistant and Co-Chief of Staff to former Assemblymember Vic Fazio, Principal Consultant to the Assembly Health Committee and Senior Consultant to the Assembly Office of Majority Consultants under the leadership of the late Speaker Leo McCarthy. Secretary Céspedes was in private practice since 1982, as a solo practitioner and partner with Céspedes, Namba & Nakagawa in Sacramento. He has served the Sacramento County Superior Court as a Pro Tem Settlement Conference Judge, Pro Tem Juvenile Court Referee, and court appointed judicial arbitrator. In 1987, Secretary Céspedes co-founded the renowned Unity Bar Association of Sacramento. He was named “Distinguished Attorney of the Year” in 2018 by the Sacramento County Bar Association, and was included in the Daily Journal’s roster of “Top 100 Lawyers” in 2021. He has served on numerous boards and commissions, including as commissioner and chair of the Sacramento Housing & Redevelopment Commission, a joint city/county agency focusing on providing housing for very low and moderate income families. He has been married to Laurel Montoya Céspedes for 50 years and they have three daughters and six grandchildren.



JUSTICE TERI L. JACKSON

Justice Teri L. Jackson has been the presiding justice of the Court of Appeal, First Appellate District, Division Five, since August 2021. From January 2020 to August 2021, she was an associate justice of Division Three. She also served as a cochair of the work group of the California Judicial Mentor Program (Appellate).

Before joining the First Appellate District, she was the first African-American woman, appointed in 2002, to serve as a judge of the San Francisco Superior Court. She was the court’s presiding judge from 2017 to 2019.

Before her first judicial appointment, she was a partner at Orrick Herrington & Sutcliffe. She was a prosecutor for more than 15 years, first with the San Mateo District Attorney's Office then with the San Francisco District Attorney's Office, where she was the first woman to serve as managing attorney of the homicide trial team.

Justice Jackson received her B.A. in politics in 1977 from the University of California, Santa Cruz. She earned her J.D. in 1980 from Georgetown University Law Center.



JUDGE PAUL A. BACIGALUPO, RET.

Hon. Paul A. Bacigalupo, Ret. joined ADR Services, Inc. in 2024 after 22 years as a Judge of the Los Angeles Superior Court. In 2014, Judge Bacigalupo was assigned to the Van Nuys courthouse, where he conducted mandatory settlement conferences full-time for the last four years of his judicial career. He previously presided over an independent calendar civil and trial court and various criminal assignments. As a mediator, Judge

Bacigalupo is characterized by his persistent curiosity to achieve resolution and his ability to ask the right questions at the right time. His reputation as an active, empathetic, and intense listener precedes him, and he is known to work tirelessly with the parties to develop creative pathways to settlement.

What further sets Judge Bacigalupo apart is his deep understanding of multicultural nuances and business and insurance decision-making processes that play a pivotal role in the settlement process. Having lived and worked in Europe, Asia and Mexico, and his familiarity with all the courts throughout California, Judge Bacigalupo has an unparalleled perspective of the diversity of litigants, attorneys, jury pools, insurance carriers, businesses, partnerships, government entities and injured parties. He is respected and sought after for his ability to accomplish resolution.

Judge Bacigalupo's legal career spans both the public and private sectors. Prior to becoming a Judge of the Superior Court, he was a Judge of the California State Bar Court. During his legal career, he practiced public and private complex construction law, business litigation, employment law, insurance, product liability, personal injury, and immigration law in both state and federal courts. He was a founding attorney mediator and arbitrator of the JAMS/Endispute Los Angeles and Santa Monica offices in 1995.

Judge Bacigalupo's dedication to judicial outreach and mentorship has left a profound and enduring mark on the legal community. He was elected as the 87th president of the California Judges Association (CJA) and founded its Judicial Fairness Coalition and is a former co-chair of the Judicial Branch Bench-Bar Coalition, a former member of the Judicial Council of California, a Special Master with the Commission on Judicial Performance (CJP), and a CJP mentor. He is frequently invited to speak to bar associations and organizations around the country about mentoring, judicial independence, and attorney well-being.



JUDGE AUDRA IBARRA

Judge Audra Ibarra was appointed to the Santa Clara County Superior Court in December 2018 and served as a pro tern justice on the Second District Court of Appeal, Division 7, from June 2021 to January 2022. She has been appointed to the Judicial Council's criminal law advisory committee and strategic plan for technology workstream. She is a founding member and the treasurer of California Women Judges and the co-chair of the Bench-Bar Coalition. She serves on the advisory board of California Education of the Bar (CEB). She teaches evidence and criminal law primary assignment orientation for the California Center for Judicial Education and Research. She is guest faculty for Stanford Law School's trial advocacy workshop and moot court competition. She co-writes the book *California Objections Civil and Criminal*, distributed by James Publishing and currently in its 19th edition, with Judge Gregory H. Ward (ret.). She is a former president of the California Asian Pacific American Judges Association and a former voting member of the Judicial Council.

Before her appointment, Judge Ibarra was counsel at the firm California Appellate Law Group (now Complex Appellate Litigation Group) in San Francisco. She was a supervising Assistant U.S. Attorney and Deputy Chief of the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force at the U.S. Attorney's Office in the Northern District of California and an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Southern District of California. She was a litigator at Pillsbury Madison & Sutro in San Francisco and a Deputy District Attorney at the Solano County District Attorney's Office. She served as a member of the Judicial Council and the committee on appellate courts for both the State Bar of California and the California Lawyers Association. She was on the board of directors of the California Minority Counsel Program, on the executive committee of the board of governors of California Women Lawyers and the chair of its amicus committee. She was certified as an appellate specialist by the State Bar of California Board of Legal Specialization. She earned a J.D. from the New York University School of Law and a B.A. from the University of California at Berkeley.