

KATHERINE LUCERO
SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE

Santa Clara County

Judge Lucero is the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Division for Santa Clara County Superior Court. She currently supervises the Juvenile Justice Court. As well as deciding cases on the general docket, she presides over the Juvenile Justice Dual Diagnosis Court which she founded in October of 2014. From May 2006 until January of 2012 Judge Lucero was the Supervising Judge in Juvenile Dependency Court where she oversaw hundreds of cases involving abused and neglected children. In 2011 she was assigned as an Appellate Justice Pro Tem on the 6th District California Court of Appeals. She was also previously assigned to the Santa Clara County Superior Court Appellate Bench, the Family Court and the Adult Criminal Court.

Judge Lucero has focused on justice for children and families with her leadership by initiating a variety of court innovations which required her to pull together a variety of government and community stakeholders and to locate funding.

In 2002 she started a Family Treatment Court in Dissolution Court to assist parents with substance abuse problems that had interfered with custody or visitation of their children. In Dependency Court she initiated the Family Wellness Court for drug exposed infants and toddlers and established the innovative Girls Court which expanded into a Teen Court to include high risk teen boys. She also helped to start the Santa Clara County Middle School Education Court in 2010. In 2014 she initiated the Juvenile Justice PATH2s (Progress Achieved through Hope & Holistic Services) Court for dual diagnosed youth struggling to get back on track and get off probation. She also brought the Educational Champion concept to Juvenile Justice.

Judge Lucero has served for the last twenty-five years on numerous committees, panels, boards, councils and projects on behalf of the community. She has previously served as a member of the Santa Clara Child Abuse Council. She served as a member and Chairperson for the Santa Clara County Domestic Violence Council from 2000 to 2013. She served on the Santa Clara County Child Death Review Team for three years prior to taking the Bench. She has also served as the President, vice-president and treasurer for the Santa Clara County La Raza Lawyers Association.

She is a former Board of Trustee for the National Council of Family and Juvenile Court Judges (NCJFCJ). She was the former co-chair of the Santa Clara County Greenbook's Cultural Competency Initiative with an emphasis on community engagement and served on the Project Oversight Committee of the Santa Clara County Greenbook Project from January 2000 to September of 2006. The Santa Clara County Greenbook Project implemented policy and procedural changes for how Law Enforcement, Social Services, Judges and Domestic Violence Advocates respond to families where there is a cooccurrence of Domestic Violence and Child abuse. She was a steering committee

member of the Courts Catalyzing Change Disproportionality Initiative for NCJFCJ. She also previously co-chaired the Santa Clara County Blue Ribbon Committee on Foster Children and Youth.

Judge Lucero has trained other judges and child welfare professionals at local, state and national conferences on issues involving the Impact of Domestic Violence on Children, on Family Drug Courts, Immigration Issues in Dependency Court and on the Disproportionate Impact of the Child welfare System on Children of Color.

Other accomplishments:

Publications

Family Drug Courts: An Innovation in Transformation, Balboa Publishing April 2012

The Impact of Substance Abuse on Children and Youth in Foster Care 4 NACoA

Network • Fall, 2011

Is it a Child Homicide? The Child Autopsy, California District Attorney's Association
Did you know? Publication May 1999

Cases Certified for Publication from the 6th District Court of Appeals Pro Tem Tenure

The People v. Edward Owen Voit

The People v. Simon Lawrence Torres

The People v. Ezequiel Barajas

The People v. Wesley Cian Clancey

Granted CA Supreme Court

Review April 2012, Published Case 2013

Sample of Faculty Presentations

Boston, MA- June 2003 **Family Treatment Court** presentation at National Judge's Conference

Philadelphia March 2003 **Family Treatment Court** presentation at National Judge's Conference

San Jose, Ca -January 2003 **Family Law Practice: 21st Annual Recent Developments**

San Jose, Ca- September 2003 **Innovative Approaches in Family and Juvenile Courts**, HNBA Convention

Los Angeles, CA February 2004 **Bridging the Gap between child abuse and domestic violence in systems responses**, AFCC Conference.

San Jose, CA 2006 **The Impact of Domestic Violence on Children**, Building Peaceful Families Conference for Faith Leaders

San Diego, CA 2007 **Immigration Issues and Juvenile Dependency Court & Dependency Treatment Courts**, Annual Statewide Beyond the Bench

New Orleans, LA 2008 **Courts Catalyzing Change: Reducing Racial Disproportionality in the Child Welfare System**, NCJFCJ Annual Conference

Emeryville, CA February 2009 Juvenile Law Institute- **Court Catalyzing Change to Reduce Disproportionality in the Court/Child Welfare Systems**

Atlanta, Georgia, April 2009 **Resurrecting the Family with Dependency Drug Courts**

San Diego, CA June 2010 **Reasonable Efforts in Domestic Violence Cases** and

Judicial Responsibility in a Budget Crisis

Reno, Nevada March 2011, NCJFCJ Annual Conference- ***Implementing Fostering Connections in the Courts***

San Diego, Faculty, Supervising Judges and Presiding Judges Workshop ***Collaborative Courts*** April 2011, AOC Juvenile Law Conference

Lansing, Michigan, ***Systems Change for Permanency*** April 2012, State Court Administrative Office 8th Annual Child Welfare Services Issues Conference, Lansing Michigan

Guam, United State Territory, ***Technical Assistance Site Visit*** for NCJFCJ, August 2014

Portland, ***Oregon Reasonable Efforts in Domestic Violence***, MDT Training July 2015

Anaheim, California- ***Applying the 16 Strategies in a Juvenile Dual Diagnosis Court***, NADCP June 2016

View from the Bench: What Judges Want to Know to Reunify Families When Substance Abuse is a Protective Factor, CWLA National Conference August 2016

Trauma Informed Treatment Courts, 2017 Annual Statewide Beyond the Bench

Transfer Hearings -Statewide Juvenile Court Judicial Training 2018

Honors

2019 Criminal Justice Visionary of the Year-New Leaders Council Silicon Valley

2019 Super Role Model Alum Rock Counseling Center

2018 Gratitude Award Unity Care's 25th Anniversary

2017 The Power of One Award recognizes what one person with one idea or action has done to improve services to female offenders AJIFO Annual Conference

2017 The Community Leader Award, Youth Connections Foundation of San Jose

2016 Spirit Award, La Raza Roundtable de California, San Jose Chapter

2015 Reaching for the Stars Award, Sky's the Limit Foundation Santa Clara County

2015 Juvenile Justices Youth Education Award, Santa Clara County-County Office of Education

2012 Distinguished Advocate Award, Dependency Advocacy Counsel Mentor Parent Program

2011 Wilmont Sweeney Juvenile Court Judge of the Year- CJA

2011 High Five Award Santa Clara County FIRST 5

2011 National Collaborative Leadership Award- National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare

2011 Santa Clara County Human Relations Services Award

2010 Portraits of Success Award, Hispanic Development Corporation

2010 The Leonard Edwards Champion of Peace Award, Santa Clara County Domestic Violence Council

2009 Vision Award, Pro Bono Project of Silicon Valley

2009 NAACP 100 Freedom Fighter award

2008 Unsung Hero, Santa Clara County Bar Association, Diversity Committee

2008 Women of Influence Award, Silicon Valley/San Jose Business Journal

2007 MACSA Ten Most Influential Latinos of Silicon Valley Award

2002 Legal Advocates for Children and Youth -Annual Award given for outstanding community leadership that improves the lives of children and youth in Santa Clara County.

2000 Volunteer of the Year- Junior League of Santa Clara County

1992 Barrister of the Year – Santa Clara County Bar Association

Education 1986 B.A. University of California at Davis - Political Science/Public Service

1989 J.D. Syracuse University, College of Law

Editorial Staff, International Journal of Law and Commerce, 1998