



THE MEXICAN AMERICAN BAR
ASSOCIATION PRESENTS

Judicial Pipeline Summer Event

EMBRACING OUR CULTURAL IDENTITY & THE VITAL NEED FOR REPRESENTATION

This program invites attendees to embrace their cultural identities and recognize the importance of representation in public service. Guest speakers will share their personal journeys to the legal profession, judiciary, and government.

Special Guest Speakers:



Luis Céspedes, Governor
Newsom's Judicial Appointments
Secretary



**Presiding Justice Gonzalo C.
Martinez**, Second District Court
Appeal, Division



Hon. Lucy Armendariz,
Judge, Los Angeles Superior
Court, Criminal Division



Wednesday
23rd July, 2025



5:30pm – 7:00pm



Details coming soon!

\$20 MABA MEMBERS
\$30 NON-MEMBERS
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Hon. Elizabeth L. Bradley
Moderator

mabaattorneys.com/event-6240492



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About Luis Céspedes

Governor Newsom's Judicial Appointments Secretary

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. In announcing his appointment, Governor Gavin Newsom said this, "Luis Céspedes has championed the cause of civil rights, equal justice, diversity and inclusion throughout his storied legal career...Luis' resilience and compassion have touched countless lives and earned the respect of countless others. I am proud to have him join our team and look forward to his counsel as we continue to build a bench that reflects the diversity of California."

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. His practice included both civil and criminal law in state and federal court and he has appeared in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Secretary Céspedes has served the Sacramento County Superior Court as a Pro Tem Settlement Conference Judge, Pro Tem Juvenile Court Referee, and court appointed judicial arbitrator. He served on the Sacramento County Court Funding Task Force which was instrumental in the construction of a new and modern courthouse in downtown Sacramento. Secretary Céspedes was also appointed by former federal district court Judge David Levi to serve on the Civil Justice Reform Act Committee for the Eastern District.

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 is a member of the Schwartz-Levi Inn of Court at U.C. Davis School of Law and was a consulting attorney on behalf of the Consul General of Mexico in Sacramento.

Secretary Céspedes has been married for 52 years to Laurel Montoya Céspedes, also a graduate of Occidental College. They have three daughters and six grandchildren.

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About Presiding Justice Gonzalo C. Martinez

Second District Court Appeal, Division

Justice Martinez is the Presiding Justice of the Second District Court of Appeal, Division Seven. He served as an Associate Justice in Division Seven from 2023 until his confirmation as Presiding Justice in 2024 by the Commission on Judicial Appointments.

Justice Martinez previously served in the Governor's Office as deputy judicial appointments secretary and also worked in legal affairs. Martinez advised on the appointment of almost 400 judges across California and frequently spoke on judicial appointments throughout the State.

He served as a deputy solicitor general in the Office of the Solicitor General in the California Attorney General's Office. He represented the State in significant civil and criminal matters in state and federal courts, including the United States Supreme Court and the California Supreme Court.

Justice Martinez was previously in private practice. He was a partner in the Appellate and Supreme Court Practice Group at Squire Patton Boggs (U.S.) LLP, practicing before appellate and trial courts nationwide. He also worked at Coblenz Patch Duffy & Bass LLP and Morrison & Foerster. As an attorney, he was certified as a specialist in Appellate Law by the State Bar of California. The Daily Journal recognized him as one of the "Top 100 Lawyers in California."

He graduated from Harvard Law School and Harvard College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in history and literature, magna cum laude with highest honors. He earned a Master's degree in English from Stanford University. He clerked for the Honorable Maxine M. Chesney at the U.S. District Court, Northern District of California, and for the Honorable Anthony W. Ishii at the U.S. District Court, Eastern District of California, both after several years of practice.

Martinez was born in Porterville, California, where he attended public schools. He was an appellate lawyer representative and a district court lawyer representative to the Ninth Circuit Judicial Council. Martinez also served on the national board of governors for the Hispanic National Bar Association and in leadership roles in several local bar associations. He also coached high school mock trial teams, and regularly speaks to law, college, and high school students.

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About Hon. Lucy Armendariz

Judge, Los Angeles Superior Court, Criminal Division

Judge Lucy Armendariz serves in the Criminal Division at the Clara Shortridge Foltz Courthouse. She previously served as the Assistant Supervising Judge of Limited Criminal Traffic and as Site Judge at the East Los Angeles Courthouse. She was elected and appointed to the Los Angeles Superior Court in 2018. She was first appointed to the bench in 2007 at the State Bar Court in 2007 where she served as Supervising Judge.

Judge Armendariz also has extensive experience in the other two branches of government. She served as Chief of Staff to the Senate Majority Leader and gained extensive experience at the Capitol in Sacramento through her service as Counsel to both the Senate and Assembly Committees on Public Safety. Governor Gray Davis appointed Judge Armendariz as the first Ombudsman for women's prisons in California.

Judge Armendariz currently serves as a voting member at the Judicial Council of California where she serves as Vice-Chair of the Legislation Committee and also serves on the Judicial Branch Budget Committee and Real Estate Policies subcommittee. She is a Commissioner on the California Commission on Access to Justice and on the Committee to Review the Operations and Structure of the Commission on Judicial Performance. Judge Armendariz is Chair of the Judicial Council Traffic Advisory Committee. Governor Gavin Newsom appointed Judge Armendariz as the Chair of the California Judicial Mentorship Program and Chief Justice Patricia Guerrero appointed her as Chair of the Applicant Evaluation and Nominations Committee. She has also served as a Commissioner on the American Bar Association Commission on Youth at Risk and is a board member on the California Judges Foundation. She is involved in many mentoring organizations and serves as an Advisory Board Member to Latina Lawyers Bar Association, East Los Angeles Community College Pathway to Law, and Roosevelt High School Law and Public Service Magnet. Judge Armendariz also volunteers her time as a Teen Court Judge at Roosevelt High School (her alma mater), and as a judge for the Constitutional Rights Foundation. In addition, she serves on the Boards of the Legal Education Access Pipeline and the Weingart East Los Angeles YMCA.

Some of her recent awards include Judicial Excellence Award from the Criminal Courts Bar Association, Judge of the Year from the Mexican American Bar Association (MABA), Outstanding Jurist Award from the LAPD Latino Law Enforcement (LA LEY), Outstanding Community Service from Legacy LA, Social Justice Leadership Award from the USC Multicultural Women Executive Leadership Program, Aguila Outstanding Community Service Award from Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association (HAPCOA), Outstanding Public Servant from the Latina Public Service Academy, and Outstanding Jurist Award from the Los Angeles Women Police Officers and Associates (LAWPOA).

Judge Armendariz is a frequent keynote speaker or commencement speaker including but not limited to Occidental College Obama Scholars Program, Dolores Mission School, Proyecto Pastoral, CSUN Graduate School of Social Work, Bresee Youth Center and Foundation, Hollenbeck Middle School and the American Bar Association Renewal and Revolution Conference.

She was born and raised in Boyle Heights, California and graduated from Roosevelt High School. She is the first person in her family to graduate from high school. Judge Armendariz attended University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) earning a Bachelor of Arts degree and earned her law degree from UC Law San Francisco (formerly Hastings Law School).

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About Hon. Elizabeth L. Bradley

Judge, Los Angeles Superior Court

Elizabeth L. Bradley is a Judge with the Los Angeles Superior Court, where she presides over a civil independent calendar courtroom in the Compton Courthouse. Prior to being appointed to the judiciary by Governor Gavin Newsom in September 2024, she was a partner with Rosen Saba, LLP, a private law firm where she practiced since 2011. Judge Bradley was certified by the State Bar of California as a specialist in legal malpractice law. At Rosen Saba, LLP, she primarily handled legal malpractice and legal ethics matters, employment litigation, business litigation and civil appeals. She was named by the Daily Journal as a Top Professional Responsibility Lawyer in California in 2022, 2023 and 2024. Judge Bradley was previously the Managing Partner of Bradley & Bradley, LLP, a law partnership formed with her mother.

When Judge Bradley was in college, her mother and stepfather opened their own civil litigation firm. Judge Bradley worked for the firm through college, law school and thereafter, and was directly involved in the firm's recruitment of female and diverse law students and attorneys. It was through her close working relationship with her mother and mentor, who was an advocate for equal opportunity and representation in the legal profession since the early 1980s, that Judge Bradley learned the importance of a diverse legal profession and the promotion and retention of female and diverse professionals in the practice. Throughout her career, Judge Bradley has carried on her mother's legacy by active engagement in the Los Angeles community, and by holding many positions in various bar organizations that prioritize these issues. She is a former Trustee and the past Vice President of Diversity Inclusion and Outreach for the Los Angeles County Bar Association. She is a former Trustee of the Mexican American Bar Association, and is former Chair of Judicial Endorsements of the Los Angeles County Unity Bar. Judge Bradley frequently participates in high school, college and law school mentoring programs through various schools, universities and organizations.

Judge Bradley attended the University of San Diego and California Western School of Law.

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