

**Judge Victoria Kolakowski** became the first openly transgender trial court judge of general jurisdiction when she was elected in Alameda County, California in 2010.

Before becoming a trial court judge, she was an attorney for twenty-one years in Louisiana and California, serving as a sole practitioner, attorney in a small patent boutique firm, patent and licensing counsel for a publicly-traded company, patent and general counsel of a second publicly-traded company, a senior government utility regulatory attorney, and an administrative law judge (ALJ) for two different California agencies.

Judge Kolakowski joined NAWJ as an ALJ member in 2006. She has served on several committees, including as co-chair of Fairness and Access in 2017 and Diversity and Inclusion in 2022.

She is passionate about ensuring and expanding access to justice, particularly for those with limited resources. She serves on the Judicial Council of California's Advisory Committee on Providing Access and Fairness and is the California Council of Churches' appointee to the California Access to Justice Commission.

Judge Kolakowski is a former president of the International Association of LGBTQ+ Judges (2015-2017), and she has spoken widely on LGBT issues, especially transgender legal issues, to audiences around the world. She is a leading educator for the judiciary on transgender issues and is an adjunct professor of law at the University of San Francisco School of Law, where she teaches a seminar on the intersection of equality rights and religious freedom.

She is especially proud to have been honored as a *Pioneer in the Law* by the California Women Lawyers in 2014 and to have been named the 2019 California Legislative Women's Caucus' *Woman of the Year - 18th Assembly District*.