

JUDGE PATRICIA GARCIA

Superior Court of California, County of San Diego
San Diego, California

The Honorable Patricia ("Patti") Garcia has served as a judicial officer since February 18, 2000, first as a Superior Court Commissioner hearing family support matters, and since July 23, 2003, as a Superior Court Judge first sitting in a general family law assignment, and currently in a criminal law assignment.

Before her appointment, Judge Garcia was a lawyer in private practice for over ten years. She was head of the Family Law Department at Seltzer Caplan McMahon Vitek, concentrating in high profile and complex divorces, prenuptial agreements, and custody and support modifications. It was during this tenure that Judge Garcia earned Martindale Hubbell's AV lawyer rating. Prior to that, Judge Garcia was a family law associate at Mitchell, Keeney, Barry & Pike. She also served as a Superior Court Judge Pro Tem from 1997, and as a San Diego County Fee Arbitrator from 1994, until her selection as a Commissioner

Over the years, Judge Garcia has participated in many civic and bar activities and has been a member of several organizations and boards. These include: Kids' Turn, San Diego MANA, the National Conference for Community and Justice, the Lawyers Club of San Diego, the San Diego La Raza Lawyers Association, Latinas in the Law, the California Women Lawyers, the National Association of Women Judges, the California Judges Association, and the San Diego County Judges Association of which she is a past President. Judge Garcia also has been a panel member and speaker on various subjects including: child support, paternity, cross-border family law issues, domestic violence, attorney's fees and costs, professional conduct and ethics, work-life balance, and career development.

Before earning her law degree from the University of San Diego in 1989, Judge Garcia completed her undergraduate work in psychology at University of California San Diego (1982), spending a year at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid in Spain. She also obtained a teaching credential from San Diego State University (1984) and taught for four years.

Judge Garcia enjoys stand up paddle boarding, tennis, bike riding, traveling, and reading. She is fluent in Spanish.