

Judge Shelley Kaufman

Judge Shelley Kaufman was appointed to the Los Angeles Superior Court by Governor Jerry Brown in December 2013 and sworn in as a judicial officer on January 17, 2014. She was immediately assigned to the Family Law Division, Department 60 in a “home court.” In March 2018, Judge Kaufman began a long cause/trial court assignment for longer trials, evidentiary hearings, and Domestic Violence Restraining Orders. Trials are very familiar to Judge Kaufman. As an attorney, Judge Kaufman tried more than sixty trials in both State and Federal court.

In August 2019, Judge Kaufman was appointed by the Presiding Judge to be the Assistant Supervising Judge of the Family Law Division. In November 2019, Judge Kaufman moved to Department 18, assigned to a settlement court for the Family Law Division. In December 2022, Judge Kaufman was appointed by the Presiding Judge to serve as Supervising Judge of the division.

Judge Kaufman has always found the family law assignment to be extremely interesting and rewarding.

Prior to becoming a judge, Judge Kaufman managed a demanding and complex civil case load. She headed the civil litigation team for the renowned firm Geragos & Geragos. Judge Kaufman specialized in civil rights litigation, catastrophic personal injuries, wrongful death, and class action cases. Judge Kaufman was a lead attorney in bringing about two historic class action settlements for \$37.5 million against two prominent insurance companies on behalf of descendants of Armenian Genocide victims. These historical actions were brought against carriers who refused to pay on life insurance policies issued in the early 1900’s in the Ottoman Empire. One of her civil rights cases resulted in a seminal published Ninth Circuit decision, which held that sexual harassment during an arrest constitutes an unreasonable seizure.

Judge Kaufman has been a presenter at a multitude of seminars as an attorney focusing on civil trial techniques and trial preparation. As a Judge, she has presented at several seminars related to family law issues, including domestic violence, modification of spousal support post-judgment, evidentiary issues in the *Sanchez* era, case management and ethics.

Prior to being appointed, Judge Kaufman was the Chair of the Women’s Caucus for Consumer Attorney of California and previously served as its Education Chair. Judge Kaufman was named in May 2013 as one of the 100 leading women lawyers in California. Judge Kaufman is bilingual English-French, having received a Certificate of Language from the Sorbonne University. She earned her bachelor's degree from Pitzer College in Claremont, California and her Juris Doctorate from Southwestern University School of Law's two-year accelerated program.