

## Biography

Judge Shelley Kaufman was appointed to the Los Angeles Superior Court by California Governor Jerry Brown in December 2013. She has been assigned to Family Law Department 60 at Stanley Mosk since she was sworn in on January 17, 2014. Managing a busy calendar is nothing unusual to Judge Kaufman as she managed a demanding and complex civil case load before joining the bench. Judge Kaufman was a partner at the renowned firm Geragos & Geragos, with its main office in Los Angeles, representing a diverse group of civil litigants and criminal defendants.

Shelley Kaufman headed Geragos & Geragos' civil litigation team. She specialized in civil rights litigation, catastrophic personal injuries, wrongful death and class action cases. Judge Kaufman tried in excess of 60 jury trials in both State and Federal court. 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. As part of her due diligence during these cases, Judge Kaufman spent weeks examining archival records in France, as well as taking depositions in Germany.

Her case load at the law firm was always unique and colorful. She was part of the negotiating team which produced a significant settlement in a catastrophic wrongful death case involving a mother killed by a runaway school bus. She represented two survivors of the 2007 San Francisco Zoo tiger attack, negotiating the settlement on their behalf. In other matters, Judge Kaufman protected the rights of a six year old boy who was taken into custody by officials who claimed the young boy was mentally unstable, represented multiple plaintiffs in the illegal wiretapping claims against private investigator Anthony Pellicano, the heirs of actor David Carradine who died in Bangkok while working for a French film production company, and Homies Unidos, a nonprofit and gang violence prevention organization, which was subjected to discriminatory treatment. An appeal brought by Judge Kaufman in one of her civil rights cases resulted in a seminal published decision out of the Ninth Circuit, which held that sexual harassment during the course of an arrest constitutes an unreasonable seizure.

In addition to Judge Kaufman's vast State and Federal court experience, Judge Kaufman argued before the California Court of Appeal and Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. She also argued matters in the District courts in North Carolina, Pennsylvania, New York and appeared pro hac vice in Florida's Circuit Court related to a wiretapping case among spouses. 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.