



HON. VICTORIA WOOD (RET.)

Mediator • Arbitrator • Referee • Private Judge



Hon. Victoria Wood (Ret.) is a retired Judge of the Napa County Superior Court. Judge Wood's judicial tenure was marked by versatility, as she has presided over a wide range of cases in various assignments, including civil, probate, family, criminal, and juvenile matters. Her responsibilities extended to overseeing complex jury trials, appeals, and high-conflict mediations in family, civil, and probate cases. She also held diverse and impactful roles in court leadership, including serving as the Assistant Presiding Judge and as Lead Judge for the Civil, Appellate, Juvenile, and Family Law Divisions.

For three years, Judge Wood played a crucial role as the judicial liaison to the Napa County Civil Grand Jury, where she supervised recruitment, investigation, and reporting efforts. Her dedication to legal education and administration is further evident in her 18-year service on the Napa County Law Library Board of Trustees, where she recently served as the immediate past president.

Prior to her appointment to the bench, Judge Wood's contributions to the Court included close to five years as a Commissioner, where she presided over a family law calendar that included dissolution and child custody matters, restraining orders, child support, juvenile, and small claims, in addition to criminal matters. She also worked nine years as a court research attorney, researching and writing tentative rulings, orders, and opinions for civil law and motion, probate, and appellate matters. Beyond her nearly two decades with the court, she gained valuable experience working as an attorney at the First District Court of Appeal and in private practice.

Judge Wood received a B.S. in Sociology and a B.A. in Spanish from Pacific Union College, graduating *magna cum laude*. She received her J.D. from the University of California, Davis School of Law.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- Business / Commercial Contracts
- Employment / Wage & Hour
- Environmental
- Family Law
- Medical Malpractice
- Personal Injury
- Probate, Estates & Trusts
- Real Estate / Real Property

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Judge, Superior Court of California, County of Napa **2017-2024**

- Presided over all types of civil, probate, family, criminal and juvenile matters, including complex jury trials, appeals and high conflict mediations in family, civil and probate matters.
- Assistant Presiding Judge of the Napa Court (2022-2023).
- Lead Judge of the Family Law Division (2022-2023).
- Lead Judge of the Juvenile Division (2022-2023).
- Lead Judge of the Appellate Division (2019-2021).
- Lead Judge of the Civil Division (2018-2021).
- Panel Judge for the Appellate Division (2018-2024).
- Judicial Liaison to the Napa County Grand Jury (2018-2021).

Commissioner, Superior Court of California, County of Napa **2013-2017**

- Presided over a family law calendar that included dissolution and child custody matters, restraining orders, child support, small claims, juvenile delinquency, juvenile traffic, truancy, juvenile dependency, and emergency protective orders (2015-2017).

- Presided over a criminal calendar that included misdemeanor arraignments, settlement conferences, judicial interventions, pre-trial motions, probation revocation hearings, drug court and adult traffic court (2013-2014).

Court Counsel, Superior Court of California, County of Napa **2004-2013**

- Researched and wrote tentative rulings and orders for civil law and motion and probate.
- Drafted all of the opinions for the court's appellate division, with a published decision.
- Fielded legal questions involving all areas of law and administration of the court.
- Served as a Riese hearing officer (2006-2008) and judge *pro tem* (2008-2013).

Attorney, Hanna, Brophy, MacLean, McAleer & Jensen, San Francisco **1998-2000; 2002-2004**

- Contract Attorney: Researched and consulted with managing partner on novel labor law and civil law issues. Drafted motions, trial briefs and appeals for managing partner (2002-2004).
- Associate Attorney: Managed caseload, planned legal strategies, advised clients, took depositions, appeared in administrative law hearings, argued law and motion and negotiated settlements. Managed firm's law library (1998-2000)

Chambers Attorney, 1st District Court of Appeal, San Francisco **2001**

- Drafted appellate opinions based upon legal research, as well as review and analysis of legal briefs and appellate record in all legal areas, with four published decisions.
- Advised and conferred with appellate justices on novel legal issues/splits of decision.

Associate Attorney, Harbinson, Carlson & Tune, San Francisco **1997-1998**

- Researched legal issues and consulted with clients and law partners.
- Drafted client letters, legal memoranda, motions, trial briefs, petitions for reconsideration and petitions for review.

EDUCATION

- J.D., University of California, Davis, School of Law 1997
- Pepperdine University School of Law
- B.S. in Sociology, B.A. in Spanish, *magna cum laude*, Pacific Union College 1994

LEGAL ASSOCIATIONS AND LEADERSHIP

- Member, The Richard M. Sangster Inn of Court, 2023-Present.
- Member, National Association of Women Judges, 2023-Present.
- Member, Rules Subcommittee, Trial Court Presiding Judge Advisory Comm., 2022-2023.
- Liaison, Judicial Council Appellate Advisory Committee, 2022-2023.
- Member, Napa County Juvenile Justice Commission, 2022-2023.
- Board Member and Past President, Napa County Law Library Board of Trustees, 2005-Present.
- Member, Napa County Bar Association, 2005-Present.
- Member and Past Treasurer, Napa County Women Lawyers, 2005-Present.
- Team Coach and Presiding Judge, Napa County Mock Trial Program, 2015-2020.
- Attorney Mentor and Presiding Judge, Napa County Peer Court Program, 2009-2020.
- Advisory Board Member, Napa Valley Education Foundation, 2017-2018.
- Member, Napa County Catalyst Coalition, 2016-2017.