



LOS ANGELES COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER

CLARA SHORTRIDGE FOLTZ CRIMINAL JUSTICE CENTER

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LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

HAYDEH TAKASUGI

Assistant Public Defender



Haydeh Takasugi has served as a Los Angeles County Public Defender since 1996.

Ms. Takasugi has handled complex felony matters, including cases in which the prosecution sought the death penalty. Over the course of her career, she tried several high-profile cases, *People v. Williams*, *People v. Garcia* and *People v. Liebel*. For her advocacy in *Williams* case, she received the Gessler Lifetime Achievement Award.

In 2019, Ms. Takasugi was promoted to Head Deputy, assigned to the Pasadena Branch and Area. During the pandemic, she led innovative efforts to implement an outdoor court to protect the health and safety of staff, clients and court personnel. She also oversaw the creation of the Neurocognitive Disorders Team (NDT), which has received national recognition.

Promoted to Assistant Public Defender in 2022, she continued to champion innovation by supporting the development of Human Trafficking Court and leading voter registration drives. She currently serves in the Central Region, which includes new attorney program, NDT, Major Cases Unit and Rapid Response Team (RRT).

Ms. Takasugi helped establish RRT, which is dedicated to supporting individuals exercising their First Amendment rights and has assisted hundreds of protestors through the court process. She assisted in the formation of and oversees the Major Cases Unit, a specialized group of attorneys assigned to the most complex homicide cases.

In addition, Ms. Takasugi represents the office in advancing the County's Women and Girls Initiative, reflecting her ongoing commitment to gender equality.

Born and raised in Iran, Ms. Takasugi lived there until the age of ten. Following the 1979 Iranian Revolution, her family immigrated to the United State, where her father sought political asylum. She earned her undergraduate degree from UCLA and her law degree from Georgetown University Law Center.



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