

Assistant Public Defender Haydeh Takasugi

Haydeh Takasugi has been a Los Angeles County Public Defender since 1996. After completing her training downtown, she started her misdemeanor rotation at El Monte Courthouse and quickly developed a reputation for being a strong litigator. When she moved to Pomona Juvenile, the judicial officer whose courtroom she staffed commented that some criminal attorneys embrace the job because of their love for the law, but that Haydeh embraced it because of her love for the clients. After her juvenile assignment, she returned downtown for her first felony trial rotation, where she continued to develop her litigation skills. She was subsequently chosen to be the Deputy-in-Charge of Eastlake Juvenile, but once she was promoted to DPD IV, she returned downtown this time to handle complex felony cases and those in which the prosecution was seeking the death penalty. She was also selected for the DNA Litigation Unit. Prior to becoming a Head Deputy in 2019, she tried several high publicity cases: *People v Manling Williams*, *People v. Edward Garcia* and *People v. Blake Liebel*. She tried a high publicity death penalty case, where she tried the case to penalty twice. For her advocacy in that case, she was awarded the Charles Gessler Lifetime Achievement Award.

In 2019, she was promoted to Head Deputy and assigned to Pasadena Branch and Area. She embraced innovation by implementing an outdoor court program during the pandemic to ensure the safety of her staff, clients, and court personnel. She oversaw the creation of the Neurocognitive Disorders Unit Pilot Project. She has also participated in numerous standing committees, including the Wellness Committee. She was selected as the strategic leader for the Office-wide Strategic Plan, Client Based Juvenile and Adult Advocacy. She is one of the LA Free the Vote chairs working to safeguard the voting rights of justice impacted individuals.

Ms. Takasugi was promoted to Assistant Public Defender in 2022 and assigned to the East Region, which includes Pomona, Pasadena and Norwalk Branch and Area. She continued to support innovation in her new role with the Human Trafficking Court in Pomona and Voter Drives for the entire office. She is currently assigned to the Central Region, which is not only the largest regional operation, but also includes new attorney training.

Ms. Takasugi was born and raised in Iran, where she lived for the first ten years of her life. Her family immigrated to the United States after the Iranian Revolution in 1979, where her father sought political asylum. She attended UCLA undergraduate and Georgetown Law School. She is a dedicated mother to Matthew and Kinuyo, both student athletes. After work, you will find her cheering her son and daughter on the football and softball fields.