



Jessica Valadez

she/her/hers

Associate

Los Angeles

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What can I solve for you?

I am a litigator and former public defender with exceptional research and writing skills and courtroom acumen. I provide counsel on a wide range of legal matters involving litigation, labor and employment, and school board governance.

What's it like to work with me?

I have made it my career's mission to support children and families through their most difficult times. As a former public defender and dependency investigator, I've learned the importance of bridging the gap between clients and the systems that serve them. I have found that my relationship-building skills, open and honest communication style, and emotional intelligence give me the ability to navigate any situation and achieve favorable outcomes for my clients.

Overview

Jessica Valadez assists school districts with navigating complex issues involving litigation, labor and employment, and board governance.

As the wife of an educator, Jessica has seen first-hand the challenges that districts face in both serving students and supporting teachers and administrators. Jessica's background in working with children and families gives her a broad and unique perspective and allows her to evaluate matters holistically.



Most recently, Jessica was a Public Defender with Los Angeles County. Prior to that, she was an Equal Justice Works Fellow at the National Center for Youth Law. There, she developed and led a coalition of advocates who sought to develop a training and guide for county-level social workers, service providers, judges, and advocates to better identify and address the needs of Native American youth experiencing commercial sexual exploitation. Additionally, she worked in a statewide coalition to pass AB 124, the Justice for Survivors Act, which supports survivors of violence including human trafficking, intimate partner violence, and sexual violence by providing trauma-informed sentencing relief and trial advocacy considerations.

Recognition

- California ChangeLawyers Next Gen Award, October 2022
 - The Next Gen Award recognizes California's next generation of legal changemakers.
 - Corresponding video: Joy & Resilience: The Story of an Indigenous Rights Lawyer – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vEFdKuV5vfQ>
- University of Michigan, Bergstrom Child Welfare Law Fellowship, One of 16 fellows nationally
- Equal Justice Works Fellow, 2020-2022 (Link to Fellowship page: <https://www.equaljusticeworks.org/fellows/jessica-valadez/>)
- Equal Justice Works, Regional Public Interest Award, One of eight recipients nationally, 2018
- University of California College of the Law, San Francisco. Student Leader of the Year, 2017-2018
- <https://www.uclawsf.edu/2018/04/30/2l-jessica-valadez-recognized-for-advocacy-on-behalf-of-vulnerable-children/>

Clerkships:

- San Francisco Superior Court, Judicial Law Clerk, Unified Family Court, 2019-2020
- U.S. District Court for the Northern District, Judicial Extern to the Honorable William Alsup, 2017-2018

After School

Cooking is my love language. I love collecting cookbooks and kitchen gadgets. The most recent cookbook I've purchased is SalviSoul by Karla T. Vasquez. When I'm not in the kitchen, I'm exploring LA with my husband and two pugs or trying to get a reservation at the newest award-winning restaurant.



Education

- University of California College of the Law, San Francisco (J.D.)
- Loyola Marymount University (B.A., Political Science and French Language & Literature)

Admissions

Bar Admissions

- California

Related Services

- Litigation
- Labor Relations & Negotiations
- Governance & Leadership

Related Clients

- Public Education K-12

Languages

- Spanish