

Judge Rohanee Zapanta was appointed by Governor Jerry Brown in 2018. She is trained and certified in mental health first aid and restorative justice cognitive behavioral therapy. Prior to her appointment, she volunteered as an instructor of restorative justice courses for inmates serving county jail commitments. As an attorney for the San Diego Public Defender's Office, she specialized in clients with serious mental illness and developmental conditions. Judge Zapanta is the Co-Chair and Co-Founder of the California Judges Association Ethics and Wellness Workshops, addressing identity and core values for many first-generation lawyers and students. Judge Zapanta presided over dependency cases from 2019 through the pandemic in 2020. She now presides over juvenile justice cases and Dependency Drug Court.