

# California's Newest Supreme Court Justice: Kelli Evans

**O**N NOVEMBER 10, the Commission on Judicial Appointments confirmed Kelli Evans as an associate justice on the California Supreme Court. A graduate of Stanford University and UC Davis Law School, Evans has broad legal experience with a focus on civil rights and social justice.

Prior to her appointment to the Supreme Court, Justice Evans served as an Alameda County Superior Court judge. Before joining the bench in 2021, she was Governor Gavin Newsom's chief deputy legal affairs secretary.

Evans had been associate director of the ACLU of Northern California, where she earlier served as an attorney. In addition to experience in private practice, Justice Evans practiced in the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice and as an assistant public defender at the Sacramento County Public Defender's Office. She also served on federal court-appointed monitoring teams for the Oakland and Cleveland police departments.

"Throughout her career, Judge Evans has dedicated herself to helping all Californians have an equal chance at justice," Governor Newsom said when announcing her appointment in August. "Raised by her grandmother in public housing, Judge Evans was inspired from a young age to find ways to help expand justice and opportunity for everyone, especially marginalized and vulnerable communities."

Evans fills a vacancy created by Newsom's promotion of Associate Justice Patricia Guerrero to chief justice.

Evans and her wife, Terri Shaw, have a daughter in college and live in Oakland. The *Review* will publish a personal profile of Evans in the Spring/Summer issue. ★

— Molly Selvin, *Review* Editor

