

Woman with a Heart for Bakersfield

Raymonda Burnham Marquez



Judge Raymonda Burnham Marquez has a heart for children, families, veterans, the homeless and other less fortunate residents of Kern County. Raymonda's focus is to strengthen the fabric of the Kern County community one family at a time. Raymonda is a servant leader, accomplished lawyer

and tirelessly devotes herself to providing for underserved families in our community.

Raymonda was the first female public defender and criminal defense lawyer to be appointed judge in Kern County Superior Court. Raymonda has a passion for child safety protection and the overall well-being of our community youth. Raymonda endeavors to preserve and strengthen families by encouraging child and family reunification when safe to do so and lovingly possible. She has witnessed hundreds of families coming together as she performed (or finalized) adoptions through the Dependency Court at the Juvenile Justice Center and at the Kern County Annual Adoption Day celebration.

Raymonda is a staunch and passionate advocate in the battle against human trafficking. She has served on boards in support of the well-being of children and the underserved. Raymonda has been a panelist and speaker for the annual Kern County Superintendent of Schools YES (Youth Empowering Success) conferences which help children in foster care. She has addressed leadership development classes sponsored by Kern County Network for Children. Raymonda has accompanied young women in detention to the Getty Museum, sharing life experiences, cultural values, the arts, and environmental sustainability. As a judge for the Homeless Court, Raymonda has coordinated multiple service projects for judicial colleagues. These include a building project with Habitat for Humanity in Delano, service at Bakersfield Homeless

Center, and organizing the "Get on the Bus" program, sponsored by Saint Francis Church.

Raymonda's father served in the U.S. Air Force near Merced where Raymonda was born. She gained the opportunity to travel to many domestic and international destinations. Raymonda developed a passion to support and provide for those military families who have struggled with devastating losses. She is privileged to serve veterans in Kern County through the Veterans Court and the Veterans Stand Down.

At age 26, Raymonda attended college at the UC Santa Barbara, and obtained a B.A. in History of Public Policy. Raymonda was accepted into a Senate fellowship program at the California state capitol. She served as a Senate Fellow for a year. In all, she has worked under two California State Senators and a California Congressional member. Soon after, Raymonda completed her Juris Doctor Degree at the Santa Clara University School of Law, with an emphasis in public interest law. Raymonda joined the Kern County Public Defender's office in 1997. She was in private practice as a criminal defense attorney in the firm of Burnham & Winkler through 2008.

Happily married to the love of her life, Armando Marquez, for 23 years, they are the proud parents of two adult children who attend UC Berkeley and UCLA. Raymonda enjoys cooking, hiking and travel adventures.