

**“21<sup>st</sup> Century Prosecutor” Panel  
Stanford Law School**

**Panelist Bios**

**Diana Becton: District Attorney, Contra Costa County, California**

District Attorney Diana Becton has spent most of her professional career as a judge, lawyer, and manager. On September 17, 2017, she was sworn in as the 25th District Attorney for the Contra Costa County District Attorney’s Office. District Attorney Becton served for 22 years as a judge in Contra Costa County, where she was elected as Presiding Judge.

Her top priority is keeping the streets of Contra Costa County safe from dangerous and violent criminals. District Attorney Becton is committed to safeguarding our communities from crimes that threaten our health, well-being, and livelihood, protecting our seniors from financial abuse, and for working on positive outcomes for our youth.

District Attorney Becton is the Immediate Past President of the National Association of Women Judges, the nation’s leading voice for women in the judiciary. She currently serves as the Chair of the State Bar Council on Access and Fairness.

A native of California she is a product of Oakland Public and a graduate of Golden Gate University School of Law. Most recently, District Attorney Becton earned a Masters of Theological Studies at Pacific School of Religion (2015).

District Attorney Becton leads a prosecutorial office of approximately 200 lawyers, investigators, and staff. She is the first woman and the first African-American to serve as Contra Costa District Attorney since the office was established in 1850.

District Attorney Becton has received the following honors: Judge of the Year (2017), Black Women Lawyers of Southern California; National Bar Association - Judicial Council, Thurgood Marshall Award 2017 (Toronto, Canada); League of Women Voters, Contra Costa County, “Social Justice Award”; CABL Bernard S. Jefferson, Judge of the Year (2016); California Women Lawyers, “Rose Bird Memorial Award” (2012); Honor for positive contributions to the City of Richmond (2016); National Organization of Black Law Enforcement, “Trail Blazer” for Community Service (2014); BWOPA Honoree 2013; American Business Women’s Association (2012) “Women of Distinction”; California Women Lawyers, (2011-2012) Women of Distinction”; KGO Channel 7 “African American Salute (2012); “Judicial Excellence Award,” California Association of Black Lawyers, Judicial Section (2011); “Judge of the Year” Alameda-Contra Costa Trial Lawyers Association (2007); “Award of Judicial Excellence, Charles Houston Bar Association” (2006); Black Women Lawyers of Northern California (2011). In 2007 she was inducted into the Castlemont High School Hall of Fame, receiving the highest honor, as a “Knight in Shining Armor,” and she received the “Dumlao Martial Arts Image Award” (2011) for leadership and character within the martial arts studio.

District Attorney Becton serves as a frequent lecturer and panelist, and she continues to participate in many community outreach activities. She convened “Clean Slate Day” helping individuals to clean up their criminal records. In 2015, District Attorney Becton served as Co-Chair of the “Know Your Rights” Youth Symposium for West Contra Costa County, as part of a national dialogue to educate youth in our communities, and to open the lines of communication between youth and law enforcement. She serves on the Advisory Board of the Law Academy at De Anza High School in Richmond, CA, and she convenes “Get Your House in Order, a program that assists elders and seniors. She serves on the Board of Directors for Castlemont High School Alumni Association, and also mentors students who are frequent visitors to her courtroom. District Attorney Becton has two adult sons.

### **Sherry Boston: District Attorney, DeKalb County (Decatur), Georgia**

As District Attorney for the Stone Mountain Judicial Circuit, Sherry Boston oversees the prosecution of felony offenses filed in the Superior Court of DeKalb County, including murder, drug and sex offenses, child and elder abuse, theft, and corruption. Prior to this role, District Attorney Boston served as DeKalb County Solicitor-General, the elected prosecutor overseeing misdemeanor crimes.

In addition to her elected positions, District Attorney Boston has also received several notable appointments. She was the first woman appointed as Municipal Court Judge for the City of Dunwoody and also served as Associate Magistrate Judge for DeKalb County. In addition to her judicial service, Ms. Boston has also worked in private practice handling thousands of misdemeanor and felony criminal cases in metro Atlanta.

Among other community and legal organizations in which she is involved, District Attorney Boston is an active member of the State Bar of Georgia. She currently chairs the Investigative Panel of the State Disciplinary Board, which has the power to investigate and discipline members of the State Bar for violations of Standards of Conduct. District Attorney Boston also serves on the Board of Governors, the State Bar’s policy making arm.

In addition to her varied State Bar roles, District Attorney Boston is an instructor for Basic Litigation for the Prosecuting Attorneys’ Council of Georgia and is regularly called upon to speak to local and national audiences on a number of issues related to law enforcement, trial preparation and cross-examination strategies.

Throughout her career, Ms. Boston has received numerous awards and recognition for her work and commitment to important causes such as domestic violence awareness and prevention/intervention initiatives.

District Attorney Boston is a graduate of Villanova University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and Emory University School of Law.

## **Mark Gonzalez: District Attorney, Nueces County (Corpus Christi), Texas**

Mark A. Gonzalez was inaugurated in January as the District Attorney of Nueces County (Corpus Christi), Texas. Born and raised in Agua Dulce, Texas, Mark earned from a very early age the immense value of community and commitment. From his days as a member of the Agua Dulce High School Longhorn football and baseball teams to his emergence as one of the Coastal Bend's fiercest trial advocates, Mark has long understood that every member of the team — the community — has an integral role to play in its success.

First-time fatherhood at 21 proved challenging for him, but the strongest character is forged in the crucible of adversity. Facing his difficulties head on, Mark worked construction to pay his way through college, proudly graduating from Texas A&M Corpus Christi in 2002. Three years later, he received his law degree from St. Mary's University School of Law in San Antonio. From 2008 through 2016, he fought tirelessly to preserve the rights of citizens accused throughout the Coastal Bend, earning a sterling reputation as a committed, zealous, effective trial lawyer and winning Criminal Defense Lawyer of the Year in 2011 from the Corpus Christi Bar Association. As District Attorney, he's intent on applying that same commitment, zeal, and efficacy to effectively seek and secure justice for victims; implement innovative, preventive crime initiatives and programs; and punish violent offenders to the fullest extent of the law.

Transparency, efficiency, and community are the three foundational pillars on which Mark's administration rests. Transparency in the evidence provided to defendants (as required by law), the DA's office's relationships with law enforcement, and in all the activities of the office. Efficiency in the appropriate, effective charging of crimes, the prudent use of taxpayer dollars, and in helping to reduce the jail population through timely intake and resolution of cases. Community focus through prosecutor outreach programs in conjunction with law enforcement, soliciting and listening to community concerns regarding crime and public safety, and the implementation of programs aimed at preventing youth crime and appropriately punishing first-time offenders.

## **Tori Verber Salazar: District Attorney, San Joaquin County, California**

TORI VERBER SALAZAR, San Joaquin County District Attorney, is the elected chief prosecutor for the County and represents the People of the State of California in criminal and related civil cases presented before the unified Superior Court of San Joaquin County. The office has a staff of 210 employees comprised of attorneys, investigators, and support personnel located in downtown Stockton, the Juvenile Justice Center in French Camp, and within branches of the Superior Court in Lodi and Manteca.

Tori Verber Salazar has devoted over 25 years of her professional life to the San Joaquin County District Attorney's Office. She began her career in 1987, working full time while attending Law School at night. In 2001 she became a Deputy District Attorney and in 2006 joined the Gang-Homicide Unit of the District Attorney's Office. Assigned to prosecute and bring to justice some of the most dangerous and hardened criminals, Tori brought with her a "never back down"

attitude to the Unit. She was the lead prosecutor in the largest sweep of Asian gang members in the history of San Joaquin County, dismantling the notorious LTC gang's ability to distribute narcotics, guns and violence in our community. Since then Tori has prosecuted and brought to justice numerous murderers and gang members within San Joaquin County. One such case involved a homicide that occurred at a well known Tracy Restaurant where the criminal in question shot into a crowded Tracy restaurant injuring eight people and killing one innocent bystander. Thanks in large part to law enforcement and Tori's hard work and perseverance, the shooter in the incident received a sentence of 242 years to life. Recently, Tori convicted of a local gangster who sent his gang henchmen to beat a fourteen year old boy to death. Tori prosecuted the defendant and was able to get a jury verdict for 2nd degree murder where he will be sentenced to 25 years to life in prison.

Not only is Tori a tough as nails prosecutor, but she is also a dedicated mother, wife, volunteer and community leader. San Joaquin County born and raised, she attended local schools, culminating in her graduation from St. Mary's High School. Tori then attended and graduated from St. Mary's College in Moraga, where she had the distinction of becoming one of the school's first female Student Body Presidents. For the celebration of its 150th anniversary, St. Mary's named Tori a "Gaelblazer", an honor bestowed upon only twenty-four other alumni groups and individuals. This distinction places her in the company of an Olympic Athlete, a former U.S. Navy Rear Admiral and the school's 1959 NCAA Basketball Tournament Team that reached vaunted "Elite Eight" status.

After graduating from St. Mary's College, Tori began the arduous task of juggling work, getting married, giving birth to three children and having to study for, take and eventually pass, the California Bar Exam. The path she took was not always the smoothest, and there were more than her fair share of bumps in the road, but her perseverance and dedication allowed her to achieve these hard fought goals. Tori often likes to state that everyone falls down, the real test is how you pick yourself up and move forward. Today, Tori is thankful for those "bumps in the road" as they taught her how to pick herself up, wipe off her boots, and carry on.

Tori serves as a board member on several worthwhile community organizations. Among them are the TLC School for the Homeless, the San Joaquin County Fair Board and the Community Partnership for Families in San Joaquin County. She serves as co-chair of "Empowering Young Women" and "Empowering Young Men", educating over one thousand students every year on the risks of becoming involved with gangs and violence. She is also actively involved in educating our youth about the dangers of cyber bullying, and educating parents and children together on the risks and dangers of social media and predators.

Tori is married to Joe Salazar, her husband of 16 years. Together they have three wonderful children, Joey and twins Lucca and Lucianna. All three are honors students involved in sports and their schools' student run newspapers. Both Tori and Joe are actively involved in their childrens' sports programs and school activities, and are grateful for the joy that all three bring to their lives.

## **Miriam Aroni Krinsky: Executive Director, Fair and Just Prosecution**

Miriam Krinsky is the Executive Director of Fair and Just Prosecution, a project that supports and inter-connects recently elected leaders of prosecutors' offices committed to new thinking and innovation. She has spent the past few decades working in public service, justice system reform and academia, including 15 years as a federal prosecutor -- both in Los Angeles and on a strike force in the Mid-Atlantic region. During that tenure, she served in the Central District of California as Chief of the General Crimes Sections, Chief of the Criminal Appellate Section, chaired the Solicitor General's Advisory Group on Appellate Issues and served on the Attorney General's Advisory Committee on Sentencing.

In 2012, Miriam served as the Executive Director of Los Angeles County's Citizens' Commission on Jail Violence, a high-level Commission appointed to investigate allegations of excessive force by Los Angeles Sheriff's deputies in L.A. County jails. Thereafter, Ms. Krinsky served as the Transition Team Director and post-election Special Advisor to a newly elected Sheriff committed to reforming the LA Sheriff's Department. She has taught at the UCLA School of Public Policy and at Loyola and Southwestern Law Schools, with a focus on youth at risk and juvenile justice issues, served as a policy consultant on youth violence prevention, juvenile justice, and justice reform issues for The California Endowment and spent five years as the Executive Director of the Children's Law Center of Los Angeles – a 200-plus person legal services organization representing over 20,000 abused and neglected children. She also served on various bodies including as President of the Los Angeles County Bar Association (the first lawyer from the public sector to hold that office), on the Los Angeles City Ethics Commission (serving as Commission President for three years), on the California Judicial Council and California State Bar Board of Trustees (by appointment of the California Supreme Court) and on the American Law Institute Sentencing Project Advisory group and the ALI Principles of Policing Advisory Group. She has testified before national and state legislative bodies, authored over 50 articles, and lectured nationwide on criminal law, law enforcement oversight and reform, juvenile justice, and sentencing issues.