

LaDORIS HAZZARD CORDELL

Education:

B.A., Antioch College, 1971
J.D., Stanford Law School, 1974

Professional:

May 2010-present: Independent Police Auditor, City of San Jose
Appointed by the Mayor and San Jose City Council following a national search.

January, 2003-April 2010: On-camera legal analyst for CBS-5 television

January 2004- January 2008: Palo Alto City Councilwoman
In this contested city-wide election, ran a successful grass-roots campaign in which no monetary contributions were accepted.

March 2001-January 2009: Vice Provost and Special Counselor to the President for Campus Relations, Stanford University

Supervised the Office for Campus Relations, that includes five offices with 30 employees (Ombuds, Sexual Harassment Policy, WorkLife, Diversity & Access, and The Help Center); reported directly to the President of the university; prepared the university's annual affirmative action plan, advised university management on matters related to equal employment opportunity and non-discrimination, and was the university's Title IX Compliance Officer.

After the office was reorganized in 2005, headed up the NCAA Certification process; had leadership role in promoting a campus culture that values respect for diversity, and encouraged service to Stanford and the larger community; conducted public interviews of Anita Hill, Julian Bond, Jocelyn Elders, and Billie Jean King; created Community Treasures program which recognized the community service of Stanford University staff; presided over a series of mock trials throughout the university to satisfy the state mandate to train staff about sexual harassment; and mediated employee disputes.

June 1988- February 2001: Judge of the Superior Court, Santa Clara County, San Jose, California (elected in 1988 in a county-wide contested election)

Presiding Judge of the Superior Court Appellate Department, 1993
Supervising Judge of the Master Settlement Calendar, 1993

(implemented an innovative approach to settling complex family, probate, criminal, dependency, and delinquency cases)

Supervising Judge of the Family Court, 1990-1992

Created Supervised Visitation Project, the first of its kind in the nation, where senior citizens monitor court-ordered visits between children and non-custodial parents

Implemented case management system in the family court which resulted in more efficient and humane handling of family cases; backlog of cases awaiting trial dates were reduced from several months to 8 weeks; settlement rate went from 70% to 96%

Designed and conducted educational programs for family court lawyers and litigants, including training program for paralegals, orientation videotape for litigants, programs on representing children in family court, training program for pro tem judges

Supervising Judge of the Probate Court, 1994-1995

Created the G.R.E.A.T. Project (Guardianship Review and Evaluation Assessment Team) in which private citizens volunteer to monitor children who are placed in court-ordered guardianships

April 1982- June 1988: Judge of the Municipal Court, Santa Clara County, San Jose, California (appointed in 1982 by Governor Jerry Brown)

Presiding Judge, 1985-1986; restructured the calendaring system to diversify case assignments for judges resulting in greater efficient in handling cases

Justice Pro Tem, State Court of Appeal, Sixth District, 1986 (3-month assignment, appointed by the Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court), authored eleven opinions, one of which was certified for publication

First judge in California to order convicted drunk drivers to install breath devices in their vehicles; these devices are now mandated by law

Established the first formal restitution program for crime victims in Santa Clara County in partnership with the National Conference of Christians & Jews, Santa Clara County

Created an educational video program for high school students entitled "You Be the Judge"

September 1978-April 1982: Assistant Dean for Student Affairs, Stanford Law School

Implemented a minority recruitment program which made Stanford Law School the leader in the nation in its enrollment and retention of students of color

1976-1982: Private Practice, East Palo Alto, California

First attorney to open a private law practice in East Palo Alto, a predominately African American and Mexican American community; law practice included criminal defense, personal injury, family law, and federal civil rights litigation

1975-1976: Earl Warren Intern, NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund

First person in the western region of the United States to receive an Earl Warren Fellowship

Community Service:

- Advisory Board, Stanford Medical Youth Science Program (2005-2009)
- Board of Trustees, Stanford Charter Schools (2005-2009)
- Board of Trustees, Mills College, Oakland, CA (1995-2001)
- Board of Trustees, United Way of Santa Clara County (1990-1999)
- Board of Trustees, National Conference for Community & Justice (1995-2006)
- Board of Trustees, Lucile Packard Foundation for Children (1994-2006)
- Board of Directors, Community Working Group, Inc. (2004-2008)
- Advisory Board, East Palo Alto Mural Art & Music Project (current)
- Board of Trustees, Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund (1993-1995)
- Sponsor and participant in AIDS Walk, Santa Clara County (2003)
- Founder, African American Donor Task Force (goal was to increase the donor pool of African Americans for blood, bone marrow and organs, 1990-1992)
- Project Diversity Steering Committee for City of San Jose (task force formulated a policy adopted by the City Council which opened the city's boards and commissions to people of color, 1991)
- Advisory Committee, San Francisco Family Violence Project (1987)
- Chairperson, Board of Directors, East Palo Alto Community Law Project (1982-1985)
- In 1988, participant in South Africa's first Human Rights Conference; while in that country, was detained by the South African police; was the subject of an award-winning PBS documentary "Color of Justice" based upon that South Africa visit.
- In 1996, a public exhibition and auction of her art work was held at the Palo Alto City Hall and at Foothill College; all proceeds from the sale of the drawings were donated to the Support Network for Battered Women.

In 1998, 1999, and 2000, created calendars which featured her original cartoons for Legal Advocates for Children and Youth, A nonprofit legal service for Santa Clara County's youth; sales of the calendar generated several thousand dollars for the organization .

In 2002, a public exhibition and auction of her art work was held at Palo Alto city Hall; all proceeds were donated to the East Palo Alto Mural Art Project.

Featured in two highly acclaimed television documentaries on the three-strikes law and on juvenile justice; guest appearances on "Nightline," "Good Morning America," "Court TV," and the "Montel Williams Show;" Guest on radio programs "Democracy Now!," and National Public Radio's "Tell Me More."

Speaker at numerous public events for nonprofit organizations throughout Santa Clara County and beyond.

Awards and Honors:

Commendation, San Jose Human Rights Commission, 2013
John W. Gardner Leadership Award, American Leadership Forum of Silicon Valley, 2012
Don Edwards Defender of Constitution Liberty Award, ACLU, Santa Clara Valley Chapter, 2011
Award of Excellence, Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Fund, 2006
Community Service Award, Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom, 2005
Rose Bird Memorial Award, California Women Lawyers, 2004
Gandhi, King, Ikeda Community Builders Award, 2004
Named "Trial Judge of the Year" by the Santa Clara County Trial Lawyers Association, 2001
Rosa Parks Ordinary People Award, NAACP, San Jose, 1999
Josephine and Frank Duvencek Humanitarian Award, 1998
Martin Luther King, Jr. Award, San Jose Peace Center, 1998
Elected President of the United States by the Girls Scouts of Santa Clara County, 1996
Youth Service Award, Legal Advocates for Children & Youth, 1996
Unsung Heroes Award, Minority Access Committee of the Santa Clara County Bar Association, 1996
Social Justice Award, San Francisco Women's Centers, 1996
Legal Impact Award, Asian Law Alliance, San Jose, 1996
Advocate for Justice Award, Legal Aid Society of Santa Clara County, 1996
Special Recognition Award for Community Service, Human

Relations Commission, Santa Clara County, 1994
San Jose Baha'i Community Service Award, 1992
Don Peters Volunteer of the Year Award, United Way of Santa Clara County, 1990
Distinguished Citizen Award, Exchange Club of San Jose and San Jose City Council, 1989
Mayor Janet Gray Hayes Public Service Award, 1989
Iola Williams Public Service Award, 1988
Juliette Gordon Low Award, Girl Scouts of Santa Clara County, 1987 (first recipient)
Woman of Achievement Award, Santa Clara County, 1985
Achievement Award, Western Center on Domestic Violence, 1986
Community Involvement Award, East Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce, 1982, 1983
Outstanding Black Woman Award, Mid-Peninsula YWCA, 1983
Public Service Award, National Council of Negro Women, 1982

Professional Memberships:

American Law Institute

Publications:

"Before Brown v. Board of Education---Was It All Worth it?"
Howard Law Journal, Vol. 23, No. 1, 1980

"The Appearance of Justice: Judges' Verbal and Nonverbal Behavior in Criminal Jury Trials," Stanford Law Review, Vol. 38, No. 1, 1985 (an oft-cited landmark study of judicial behavior, co-authored with Professors Peter Blanck and Robert Rosenthal)

"Black Immigration: Disavowing the Stereotype of the Shiftless Negro," Judges Journal, Spring, 1986 (discussion of the enduring cultural depression from which African Americans suffer, the devastating legacy of forced immigration, i.e., slavery)

"Musings of a Trial Court Judge," Indiana Law Journal, Vol. 68, issue 4, 1993 (co-authored with Florence O. Keller, Ph.D.)

"The Joy of Judging," Harvard Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Review, Vol. 43, No. 2, Summer 2008

Opinion pieces published in Slate.com, Salon.com, SF Chronicle, San Jose Mercury News, and KQED radio's "Perspectives."

Featured in articles in the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, the Los Angeles Times, the San Francisco Chronicle, and the San Jose Mercury News.

Personal:

Judge Cordell is the mother of two daughters and a grandmother. She regularly speaks to community groups and to students. When time permits, she swims, composes music, sings, plays the piano, and draws portraits and legal cartoons, all with arguable talent. She resides with her partner in Palo Alto, California.