

Santa Clara County Juvenile Justice Commissioners

Heather Angove

Heather was born in Mountain View and has lived in the Bay Area her entire life, except for a short time in college and in San Diego after law school. She graduated magna cum laude from Santa Clara University School of Law and pursued a career in indigent criminal defense. She worked as a Federal Public Defender in San Diego and then San Jose for 19 years and also worked at the U.S. District Court in San Jose as a law clerk to three federal judges. In 2002, she began teaching at Santa Clara University School of Law as an Adjunct Professor. Heather is passionate about providing quality legal representation to indigent clients and giving them a voice. Heather has been committed to social justice issues in her community and previously volunteered with Volunteers in Parole. In the Fall of 2023, Heather began her own private law practice specializing in federal and state in criminal defense. She works with Santa Clara County's Independent Defense Organization (IDO) and is appointed to the indigent defense federal CJA appellate panel in the Central District of California. Heather joined the JJC in 2020 to get involved in her community and be an advocate for youth in Santa Clara County. She enjoys spending time outdoors and hiking with her husband and two dogs.

Marcie Bellicitti (Secretary)

Marcie is a lifelong resident of Santa Clara Valley. After leaving the tech industry to finish her BA in Economics at San Jose State University, she then went on to raise her children. Marcie was an active member of the PTA organization for her children's schools, serving as Treasurer and Auditor for 3 schools. A long-time interest in law led her to enroll in Paralegal Studies at West Valley College and she completed the certificate program with a 4.0 GPA. Marcie also served multiple terms in Santa Clara County's Civil Grand Jury before joining the Juvenile Justice Commission in 2022.

Stephen Betts (Chair)

Stephen Betts was born and raised in England and moved to the United States in 1980. While pursuing a master's degree in clinical psychology, he began working for Eastfield Ming Quong (now Pacific Clinics) in a children's treatment program. After receiving his degree he worked as a therapist for an Adolescent Treatment Center, then for Santa Clara County's Department of Family and Children's Services as a manager at their Children's Shelter, and then at the County's Department of Alcohol and Drug Services as a Division Director. There he worked collaboratively with the Probation Department, Court and community-based organizations to bring services to youth. After retiring, Stephen brought his passion for improving systems to the Juvenile Justice Commission, on which he served from 2012-2015, and again from 2018 until the present. Stephen has three teenage grandchildren who are the light of his life, and a daily reminder of the importance of the Commission's work.

Penny Blake

Penny was born in Brooklyn, but spent many of her early years growing up in Asia. She returned for college, graduating from San Jose State University. After college she became a Juvenile Probation Office, and while working later attended Santa Clara University School of Law. Penny then joined the Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office where she spent her last 17 years before retirement, representing abused and neglected children. Penny brings to the Commission working knowledge of the systems impacted by the Juvenile Court.

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Victoria Burton-Burke (Immediate past chair)

Victoria Burton-Burke has been on the Juvenile Justice Commission many years.. She attended DePauw University and Santa Clara University School of Law. She worked in the Public Defenders office and has been an active advocate in the community for youth.

Dev Ghoshal (Vice chair)

Dev Ghoshal was born in India and moved to the United States to pursue higher education. Following an MBA from University of Pennsylvania, Dev spent his early years working at McKinsey, a global management Consulting firm, advising corporate and government officials on strategy and operations. He then joined and helped grow a supply-chain software company to multi-billion \$ revenue, leading their European and then global services organization. Moving to Santa Clara County in 2005, he spent the next 15 years as GM of businesses at Microsoft and Sun Microsystems, as well as helping build two successful startups in the software security space. His passion remains in helping organizations achieve their objectives with the right mix of strategy and focus.

He currently plays a more advisory role and helps several Silicon Valley startups on their growth strategy as part of their Boards. He is also honored to serve on the Advisory Board of San Francisco State University's School of Business. He was a member of the 2021 Civil Grand Jury and then joined the JJC in mid-2022.

Karen Guldán

Karen Guldán moved to California to attend Santa Clara University, where she received a BS in Biology, MBA in Business Administration, and JD. From her first job as a Chemist, she soon transitioned to high-tech and has worked in GPS technology and business for the balance of her career. She is active in the community, driving the creation of a weekly food pantry in conjunction with Second Harvest during COVID which now serves more than 250 families per week. She has been a CASA (Court-Appointed Special Advocate) for 10 years for several youth, and now supervises other CASAs. She's been on the board of the Bill Wilson Center since 2009, and is also an active volunteer at the Humane Society of Silicon Valley and Hospice of the Valley.

Nora Manchester

Nora has served on the Juvenile Justice Commission for over 40 years. Born in New York State, she moved to California when her husband enrolled in UC Berkeley School of Law. She received her BA from Seton Hill University and her MA in Sociology from Fordham University, Nora worked as a social worker in Contra Costa County and a Juvenile Probation Officer in Santa Clara County. She joined the Board of Children's Research Institute and later California Children's Lobby because of her commitment to create change and safety for children through legislation. Nora is the Founder of Child Advocates of Santa Clara county and then of San Mateo county. She served 12 years as the Executive Director as well as President of the State CASA Association. Nora currently works as the Director of the Myra Reinhard Family Foundation.

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Darius Parakh

Darius Parakh is a senior at the University of California, Berkeley, studying Public Policy and Human Rights. On campus, Darius works with the PATH to Care Center as a sexual violence prevention advocate.

Neha Parthasarathi (Youth commissioner)

Neha Parthasarathi is a current senior at Silver Creek High School within the East Side Union District. She plans to pursue her undergraduate years with studies in corporate finance and hopes to attain her JD post-graduate. She is the founder and president of the student-led 501c3 nonprofit, Voiceopedia. Working to empower refugee youth within their secondary education pathways, she hosts career exploration, financial literacy, and public speaking camps in collaboration with schools in the United States and globally in Myanmar. Neha has also received several service commendations, including the California State Senate volunteer award from the Office of Senator Dave Cortese, a nomination for the US Presidential Scholar, and Gold Presidential Volunteer Service recognition. Aligning with her interest to explore the interdisciplinary studies of legislation, labor, and education systems, she is grateful that the JJC enables her to immerse herself within youth equity movements.

Jean Pennypacker

Jean Pennypacker is a native Californian and has remained in California her whole life. She received her BA at UCSB in History, but soon learned that her career path was quite narrow. After four years working at the San Jose Municipal Court and falling in love with the law, she returned to school and received a BS and Master's Degree at San Jose State University in Administration of Justice. She continued her career by joining the Santa Clara County Superior Court as a management analyst for the Criminal Court and then she moved on to special projects for the Court as a whole. She assumed an executive position as the Director for the Family Resources Division which included Family, Juvenile Dependency, Juvenile Justice and Probate Courts. She also oversaw the Court's grants. In her 16 years in this position she not only managed the staff assigned in these areas, she worked with the judges in the development of the Court budget, creating policies and procedures and initiating new programs including the implementation of the Self-Help Center, the Court's website, the CITA Court in Juvenile Justice, and the Domestic Violence Courts in the Juvenile Justice, Dependency and the Family Divisions. After retiring with 30 years working in the Court system and realizing that she still had a desire to serve her community, she joined the Juvenile Justice Commission. During her 12 years on the Commission, she served as Secretary, Vice-Chair and Chair of the Commission. She is proud of the efforts and the contributions the Commission have made in improving outcomes for children and youth involved in the Juvenile Justice and child welfare systems.

Howard Pomerantz

Howard Pomerantz has lived and worked in Santa Clara County since 1989. He has a Ph.D. from Brandeis University and worked in the computer industry for over thirty years where he has held such positions as individual contributor and Vice President. Howard has taught part-time at De Anza College, the De Anza College Youth Enrichment Program, and San Francisco State University. Howard has been a member of the board of directors of non-profit organizations in Silicon Valley and has served two terms on the Santa Clara County Civil Grand Jury.

Rayan Sangupta (Youth commissioner)

No bio submitted.

Vaishali “Shali” Sirkay

Vaishali “Shali” Sirkay was born and raised in New York City, the daughter of immigrants from India. A proud product of the K-12 public education system in NYC, she went on to receive her Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology from Barnard College at Columbia University, and her Master of Public Health from Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine. She has done community development work in New Orleans, New York City, and the San Francisco Bay Area for a variety of target populations. Bringing public health and public education together, in 2018 she was elected to the Los Altos School District Board of Trustees as a Governing Board Member, a position she still holds. She also serves on the Board of Directors of the statewide Asian Pacific Islander School Board Members Association, the leadership team of the Santa Clara County School Boards Association, and several other nonprofit boards. Shali’s work on the Juvenile Justice Commission brings her work in public education, public health, social justice, and social determinants of health under one umbrella. As a school board member and commissioner on the Juvenile Justice Commission, Shali believes in addressing the whole child, and working with children and families wherever they are in the continuum of education, mental and physical health and wellness, and socio-economic and cultural integration.

Diana Traub

Diana Traub was born and raised in the Bay Area. Having her own lived experience in multiple systems throughout her upbringing, Diana found her passion early on for promoting social justice and promoting equality for vulnerable populations. After experiencing many hardships, Diana pursued her G.E.D. and continued her education to pursue social work, ultimately obtaining licensure in this field (LCSW). Diana has worked with Santa Clara County’s most vulnerable and highest-acuity youth for the past 16 years in multiple positions to help stabilize youth with their families and create sustainability in their natural environments. She also worked for a former California State Senator serving the 15th Senate district, engaging in mental health and social justice policy work. During this time she further engaged the community as the Principal Consultant for a bipartisan Mental Health Caucus and statewide Mental Health Select Committee. Diana’s personal experience and professional history have ignited her desire to serve her community through the Santa Clara County’s Juvenile Justice Commission.

