



Clark County Courts

T. Arthur Ritchie
Chief Judge, Eighth Judicial
District Court

Ann E. Zimmerman
Chief Judge, Las Vegas
Township Justice Court

Steven D. Grierson
Court Executive Officer

Melissa Saragosa

Department Four
Las Vegas Township Justice Court

Term of Office 2006 - present

Justa Johnson
Judicial Executive Assistant
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Judge Melissa Saragosa was raised in Mesa, Arizona. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of San Diego in 1990 with a Major in Psychology and a Minor in Philosophy. She continued her education at the University of San Diego School of Law, earning her Juris Doctor in 1993.

In March 1994, Judge Saragosa was selected as a direct appointee to the United States Air Force Judge Advocate General Corps. Her first active duty assignment was at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona where she worked in various positions: Chief of Legal Assistance and Preventive Law; Chief of Administrative Law; Claims Officer; and Chief of Labor Law. In 1997, she was recruited as a Circuit Trial Counsel for the Western Circuit, USAF Trial Judiciary, Travis Air Force Base, California.

In this position, she served as the lead prosecutor on court-martial cases at 18 bases in the Western region of the United States. As an additional duty, she was assigned as the Director of Training for the Western Circuit wherein she organized an annual Trial Counsel Workshop for newer JAGs and published advocacy training materials for the base level legal offices.

After two years prosecuting cases on the Circuit, Judge Saragosa separated from active duty and joined the reserve corps. As a reservist, her first office of attachment was Aviano Air Base, Italy. While living in Europe, she performed reserve duty tours for Incirlik Air Base, Turkey; Geilenkirchen Air Base, Germany; Aviano Air Base, Italy (both base office and headquarters); Appellate Government Office, and the Tort Claims Division, earning her the USAFE Harmon Award for Outstanding JAG Reservist for 1999.

In 2000, Judge Saragosa relocated to Las Vegas, Nevada temporarily filling the Chief of Military Justice vacancy at Nellis Air Force Base created by the deployment of the active duty

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member. As a reservist, she worked as a Reserve Instructor with the Civil Division of the Air Force Judge Advocate General School at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama. She currently holds the rank of Major and continues to serve as a reserve assistant judge advocate at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada.

In September 2000 she began working for the Clark County District Attorney's Office in her civilian capacity. She has worked in the Appellate Division and on various General Litigation Teams. Her most recent position was as the Chief Deputy District Attorney of Recruiting and Training where she developed a systematic approach to recruiting the best candidates at the optimal time of the year. She also created a formal training program for new deputy district attorneys and supervised the summer associate program.

In December 2006, Judge Saragosa was appointed by the Clark County Commissioners to fill a vacancy in Justice Court Department 4. She took the bench on January 8, 2007. Judge Saragosa is admitted to practice law in Nevada, California, Arizona, and Maryland.