

## JUDICIAL PROFILE:



**HON. JENNIFER P. TOGLIATTI**

CHIEF JUDGE  
OF THE EIGHTH  
JUDICIAL DISTRICT

BY MELINDA CATREN,  
NEVADA LAWYER COORDINATOR

Public service could be considered something of a family legacy for Judge Jennifer P. Togliatti. Her father was a special agent with the FBI for more than 20 years and it was at his encouragement that Togliatti formed an interest in the legal profession; when she expressed an interest in following in his footsteps, he advised her to watch court proceedings and speak to lawyers and judges. It was not long after she began watching District Court Judge Philip Pro at work that she realized she wanted her career as a public servant pursuing justice to unfold in the courtroom.

### EDUCATION AND LEGAL CAREER

Togliatti has called Las Vegas home for 35 years; she attended Bishop Gorman High School and graduated from UNLV with a Business Administration Degree. She received her Juris Doctorate from California Western School of Law, San Diego, in 1993, and began working as a law clerk that same year with the Appellate Division of the Clark County District Attorney's Office Criminal Division. In 1994 she became a Deputy District Attorney.

In 1998, Togliatti was elected Justice of the Peace for the Las Vegas Justice Court and, in 1999, served as Chief Judge. In addition, Togliatti presided over all Specialty Court dockets for the Eighth Judicial District Court and served as acting Federal Magistrate for U.S. District Court. In 1998 she was the recipient of the Nevada Chapter of the National Organization of Women's Equality NOW Award, in recognition of her work on behalf of, and commitment to, the rights of women and children within the community.

On April 23, 2002, then-governor Kenny Guinn appointed her to fill a vacancy in the Eighth Judicial District Court, Department 9. Last year, her colleagues chose her as Chief Judge of that court, in a vote of confidence Togliatti does not take for granted.

"Their support is something I truly value," she explains. "I continually strive to ensure that their confidence in me was well placed."

Her proudest accomplishment has also brought her some of her greatest challenges: court management in the face of some major budget cuts. Providing appropriate security for court facilities and maintaining an appropriate level of service, and access to justice, to litigants and attorneys for 52 judicial departments, in the face of budget and staffing cuts, has not been easy!

### MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT

Togliatti's message to attorneys appearing in her courtroom is one of courtesy: both in case preparation and in attitude toward the court and opposing counsel – no matter how the other attorney is acting.

"Don't lower your standards of congeniality because opposing counsel has," she advises. "And don't continue to argue with the court after the ruling has been made." Togliatti says she is always impressed by an attorney who is flawlessly prepared and who remains unflappable in the heat of contentious litigation. ■

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