

**Profile**

Deborah

First Name

Dentler

Last Name

[Redacted]

Email Address

[Redacted]

Street Address

[Redacted]

Suite or Apt

[Redacted]

City

CA

State

93013

Postal Code

**Indicate Supervisor Who Will Receive a Copy of your Application \***

First District - Das Williams

[Redacted]

Primary Phone

[Redacted]

Alternate Phone

**Which Boards would you like to apply for?**

Human Services Commission: Submitted

**Reference 1 Name**

Marybeth Carty

**Reference 1 Address**

[Redacted]

**Reference 1 Telephone**

[Redacted]

**Reference 1 Occupation**

Exec Dir., Orfalea Foundation

**Reference 2 Name**

Holly Minear

**Reference 2 Address**

[Redacted]

**Reference 2 Telephone**

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[REDACTED]

**Reference 2 Occupation**

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Exec. Dir, Student Services

**Reference 3 Name**

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Gregory Stamos

**Reference 3 Address**

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[REDACTED]

**Reference 3 Telephone**

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[REDACTED]

**Reference 3 Occupation**

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mediator/retired attorney

**If you are now, or have ever been employed by the County of Santa Barbara, please list the department in which you worked, your title, and the dates you were employed.**

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N/A

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**Interests & Experiences**

**Please explain why you are interested in serving, and what experience you bring to the Committee. Attach additional documentation as necessary.**

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I am hoping to utilize my professional and volunteer background to benefit underserved families and communities in the county I relocated to after a long career in non-profit and government-related work. I am semi-retired from my career as an attorney specializing in case arising from the foster care system (I currently focus my practice on appellate court cases where I am appointed for parents/children by order of the courts of appeal). Earlier in my legal career, I taught part-time at a CA community college and worked as a staff attorney at L.A. Legal Aid, handling slum housing cases. I also worked as a consultant and grant writer for non-profits and schools, researching and preparing grant applications. I have 3 adult children (one of whom was adopted as a teen from foster care), and 2 young grandchildren. My husband is trilingual (Spanish & Portuguese) and we volunteered together with food distribution in Carpinteria throughout the pandemic, and we have also volunteered together with the non-profit organization Kids In Need f Defense, Inc., providing pro bono legal counsel for unaccompanied minor immigrants. I have much to learn about the County I now call home, but I am confident my professional and personal experience can be put to good use in service of the public by volunteering for a commission position.

**Give any information explaining qualifications, experience, training, education, volunteer activities, community organization memberships, or personal interests that bear on your application for the above Board, Commission or Committee. Attach additional documentation as necessary.**

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I am active in the following local non-profit organizations: Santa Barbara Women's Fund; Carpinteria Woman's Club; Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee; Carpinteria Children's Project Food Bank (weekly volunteer during Covid-19 pandemic); Santa Barbara Women Lawyers Assn. Prior to moving to Carpinteria, I served on the following boards and commissions: Metropolitan Water District of So CA. Board of Directors (2000-2004); City of Pasadena Environmental Advisory Commission (former vice-pres.); City of Pasadena's Playhouse Park Stakeholder Advisory Group; City of Glendale's Historic Preservation Commission (which I chaired); Glendale Historical Society (past president); American Assn of University Women, Glendale Branch (past v.p.); Volunteer voter protection attorney for national and state elections w/ the "Victory Counsel" project (2008-present). See c.v., attached.

[DD\\_cv\\_2022.pdf](#)

Upload a Resume

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## Demographics

### Ethnicity

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Caucasian/Non-Hispanic

### Gender

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Female

### Education Completed:

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B.A.; Master's of Liberal Studies; J.D.

### Please Agree with the Following Statement

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**I agree that upon submission of this application all information provided is a matter of public record, and is subject to disclosure.**

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I Agree \*

# DEBORAH DENTLER

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Home: (805) 318-1146

Office voicemail: (626) 796-7555 ext. 127

Mobile: (818) 640-3747

Email: [ddentler@gmail.com](mailto:ddentler@gmail.com)

Website: [fosterparentlawyer.com](http://fosterparentlawyer.com)

1998 – present Private legal practice

- Specializing in appointed and private appeals for parents, caregivers, and children in the Second, First, and Sixth Districts of California Court of Appeal; part-time solo practice in areas of foster care adoption, kinship caregiver/foster parent advising, law & motion, writ proceedings in juvenile dependency-related cases. Admitted to practice in all California courts (state and federal). To date, I have handled 250+ juvenile dependency appeals, habeas corpus petitions, and extraordinary writ matters, resulting in numerous published opinions.
- (Former) Grant-writer/consultant for non-profit educational, labor & governmental organizations. Representative clients: ChildSHARE; Armenian Educational Foundation; SEIU (Homecare); Desi Geestman Foundation; Board of Regents of Prelacy Armenian Schools; Neighborhood Legal Services (naturalized citizenship education project); One Stop Immigration Center.
- (Former) Co-founder & board member, Legal Advocates for Permanent Parenting, Inc. (“LAPP”) (2003-2005)  
LAPP, a non-profit headquartered in San Mateo, CA, was the brainchild of Deborah Dentler and Regina Deihl (formerly staff attorney with the Administrative Office of the Courts), both of whom were foster and adoptive parents. LAPP was instrumental in the enactment of new state statutes pertaining to foster care and adoption.

1991–2007 **Teaching & Presenting**

- Adjunct instructor of social science, American history, gender courses, and community volunteerism courses, Glendale Community College (1991-99).
- Adjunct professor, Glendale University College of Law (1990) course taught: Administrative Law.
- Trainer/presenter at numerous training programs and conferences for foster parents and social workers, including: Harvard Law School (Feb. 2017); co-presenter, annual conferences of North American Council for Adoptable Children (2009, 2013); presenter or co-presenter: Serenity Infant Care Homes, Inc. (Azusa/W. Covina); Children’s Bureau (Los Angeles); Inner Circle Foster Family Agency (Van Nuys); Delta College (Stockton); Grossmont College (San Diego); North American Council on Adoptable Children (Minn. 2004); ChildSHARE, Inc.’s adoption parent support group program..

1986-1989 **Senior Attorney, Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles** (responsible for supervising two staff attorneys and one paralegal; specialized in slum housing litigation and housing code enforcement-related legal cases.)

1985 **Director of Impact Litigation, Bet Tzedek Legal Services (Los Angeles)**

1980-1984 **Private practice of law (business & tort litigation) (Los Angeles)**

## **Education**

J.D., U.C.L.A. School of Law (1979)

Master of Liberal Studies, Boston University (1976)

Bachelor of Arts, history Boston University (1974) (magna cum laude)

## **Publications, Civic & Professional Activities**

- Annual chapter author (w/Hon. Patricia Bresee) for the Continuing Education of the Bar's treatise, *California Juvenile Dependency Practice* (chap. Six, "Postdisposition Proceedings: 6-, 12-, 18-, and 24-Month Reviews")
- KIND (Kids In Need of Defense) Pro bono volunteer, representing refugee immigrant children in Los Angeles guardianship and immigration proceedings in the probate courts and U.S. immigration court of Los Angeles (2016 to present)
- KidSave "Weekend Miracles Los Angeles" program (volunteer) (2015-2019)
- Author: "Weekend Miracles: How An International Adoption Recruitment Strategy Helps Recruit Parents for Children in Foster Care" published in *Adoptalk*, the quarterly journal of the North American Council on Adoptable Children (Summer 2016)
- Vice Chair, City of Pasadena's Environmental Advisory Commission (2015--2020)
- Member of the Board of Directors, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California representing City of Los Angeles (2002-2006). Record of leadership in areas of public stewardship, water education, water conservation, and environmental protection.
- Commissioner and two-term Chair, City of Glendale Historic Preservation Commission. (2<sup>nd</sup> term ended Aug. 2006)
- Legislative advocacy and bill drafting experience: AB1242 ("Human Right to Water"), sponsored by UULM and passed both houses of the CA legislature in 2009, vetoed by the governor. Drafted & proposed Senate Bill 591, "Caregiver Information Act," carried by State Senator Jack Scott. The bill amended Welfare & Institutions Code provisions pertaining to rights of caregivers, and improved foster parents' and pre-adoptive families' access to information and to the courts. In 2003-5, also Dentler helped draft and co-sponsor other bills in the area of foster parenting and adoption, including SB 358 and SB 218, both signed into law in 2005.
- Voter Protection volunteer attorney: DNC National Voter Assistance Hotline (2020); Alabama DNC Hotline and Alabama Election Day ballot cure team (2020); Nevada Democrats Voter Protection Hotline (June 2020); Nevada Victory Counsel 2016 (Clinton presidential Oct./Nov. 2016); Sanders for President (Los Angeles, June 2016); Nevada 2012 & 2008 Change to Win (Obama Campaign); Out-of-State Travel Coordinator, CA 2008 (Obama for America); graduate of "Camp Obama" Los Angeles Aug. 2008).
- Volunteer Settlement Officer, and Judge Pro Tem, Glendale Superior Court (1999-2001); Volunteer attorney, Barrister's Domestic Violence Project (1997-98).
- Recipient of Commendation for "Outstanding Contributions to Delivery of Pro Bono Legal Services" from State Bar Board of Governors (1989).

**Memberships and Affiliations (partial list):** Co-founding member, Carpinteria Hearts (affiliate of Santa Barbara Women’s Fund; volunteer, Carpinteria Children’s Project & food bank; member, Santa Barbara Women’s Political Committee’s Legislation & Advocacy Committee; Carpinteria Woman’s Club; Co-Founder, Coalition for a Better Glendale (anti-gun show advocacy group, 2014); Sandy Hook Promise (member); Former Executive Board Member, California Appellate Defense Counsel (elected 2008); Awardee, AdoptUSKids Adoption Support Mini-Grantee (2004); co-founder (1991) of City of Glendale’s first non-profit foundation to raise private funds for a public elementary school (Glenoaks Elementary School Foundation); past vice-president, Glendale American Association of University Women; past president and vice-president, Glendale Historical Society; elected delegate to 1996 Democratic National Convention; member, negotiating committee, Local 800 AFSCME (staff union at Bet Tzedek Legal Services, 1985); field staff, Tom Bradley for Governor Campaign (CA 1982).

**Personal:** Married to Anthony Segall, General Counsel to Writer’s Guild of America and partner in the Pasadena law firm of Rothner Segall & Greenstone. They split their time between Pasadena CA (in Los Angeles County) and Carpinteria CA (in Santa Barbara County). They have three adult children: Jordan Dentler Segall (partner, law firm of Munger Tolles & Olsen); Lucas Dentler Segall (composer/ musician); Samantha Segall, adopted from foster care at age 13 and currently training to become a certified utility repair technician. Daughter-in-law Alexis Casillas is an attorney specializing in advocacy for families of special needs children. Deborah established and sustains the Dentler Poetry Prize at Northwestern University (IL) in memory of her late father, Robert A. Dentler, who was a nationally-known sociologist and expert in the field of school desegregation and an amateur poet.