



Judge Andrew A. Valdez

Andrew A. Valdez is a judge in the Third District Juvenile Court in Salt Lake City. Prior to his appointment to the bench in 1993, he was a commissioned captain in the United States Army J.A.G. Corps, and a trial counsel with the Legal Defenders Association Felony and Homicide Division. Judge Valdez has served as chair of the statewide Youth Parole Authority and on the Utah Sentencing Commission, the Board of Trustees for Primary Children's Medical Center, the Juvenile Justice Task Force, the Board of Juvenile Court Judges, the Judicial Council and is currently a member of the National Youth Gang Center.

Judge Valdez has been honored with the Martin Luther King Civil Rights Award by the NAACP, Footprinter's Association Law Enforcement Office of the Year Award, Utah Children Advocate of the Year Award, Utah State Bar Judge of the Year Award, Cesar Chavez Peace and Justice Award, and the Pete Suazo Community Service Award.

Judge Valdez is committed to helping troubled youth, and has developed a court-based mentoring program. His nonfiction book, *No One Makes It Alone*, is based on his life. He is married to Joyce P. Valdez, and together they have four children.

What made you pursue the career you have chosen?

"I was impressed by the way lawyers dressed and carried themselves when I was a street boy, shining their shoes and selling newspapers. I wanted to be a judge because I felt that making a difference in the lives of people in need would best be accomplished if I was inside the tent—not outside the margins of judicial power."