

Jeanette Day
Deputy Public Defender, Juvenile Division
County of San Diego



For over three decades, Jeanette has been a tireless advocate and leader in San Diego. An attorney who represents children as a Deputy Public Defender in the county's Juvenile Division, she was formerly with the Office of Children's Counsel.

Inspired by her awareness of the unique and critical needs of foster children, Jeanette co-founded Just in Time for Foster Youth (JIT), a successful non-profit with programs and services that help steer foster youth into productive adulthood. JIT programs provide furniture and home accessories for youths transitioning out of foster homes, laptop computers for those attending college, job mentoring skills, and matching funds for saving and investment.

Jeanette has served in nearly every capacity at JIT, and she exemplifies the organization's tagline, "Help from the Heart." Candace Jewel, one of the first foster youth Jeanette mentored through JIT, has been in Jeanette's life for over 13 years. Jeanette proudly calls Candy her daughter.

Jeanette envisioned and coordinated the renovation of Hillcrest Receiving Home, a shelter for abused children. She cultivated the support of civic leaders, businesses, service organizations, and individuals, coordinating 3,000 hours of volunteer time from more than 400 volunteers and raising over \$300,000.

She has served three terms on the San Diego County's Children, Youth and Families Commission. Jeanette is a founding Board member of Friends of Children and The Coming Together Foundation. She served on the Board of Management for the YMCA Youth and Family Services and the advisory board to Angels Foster Family Agency, and was vice president of philanthropy for St. Germaine Children's Charity. She was a member of the San Diego Junior League.

Jeanette has been recognized by the San Diego Board of Supervisors for her exemplary efforts to develop public/private partnerships that benefit the citizens of San Diego. She was featured twice in *San Diego Magazine* as one of "50 People to Watch," and has received a 10News Leadership Award, Soroptimist International's Women Helping Women Award (twice), Kappa Alpha Psi's Leadership Award, and a 2016 Spirit of Community Award from Junior League of San Diego. She was named a Salvation Army Woman of Dedication in 2014, and the San Diego Bar Association recognized her for being a part of a team that collaborated to improve outcomes for children with educational issues. Most recently, Just in Time for Foster Youth made her a 2019 Walk the Talk honoree.

Jeanette's volunteerism began during college as a VISTA volunteer, when she developed a latchkey program for youth without afterschool supervision.