

**SONENSHINE, Sheila Prell**

RETIRED ASSOCIATE JUSTICE, COURT OF APPEAL, Fourth Appellate District, Division Three

**Appointment/Election:** Appointed to newly created position by Governor Brown Jr. Nov. 29, 1982, confirmed by Commission on Judicial Appointments Dec. 27, 1982, oath same day, confirmed by electorate to 8-year term Nov. 4, 1986, and reconfirmed by electorate Nov. 8, 1994 to 12-year term commencing Jan. 3, 1995. Retired April 14, 1999.

**Other Judicial Office:** Judge, Superior Court, Orange County, May 18, 1981 (date of oath) to Dec. 29, 1982, appointed to newly-created position April 9, 1981 by Governor Brown Jr.

**Past Employment:** Private law practice, Newport Beach, Calif., 1971-81: (senior partner, Gordon, Weinberg, Sonenshine & Zipser, 1980-81; sole practitioner, 1978-80; partner, Sonenshine and Armstrong, 1972-98; and sole practitioner, 1971-72). Certified Specialist in Family Law, Sept. 1980.

**Memberships/Awards:** Member: Coalition for Justice, Board of Directors, 1993—; Chair, Symposium, Jewish and Contemporary Law (1993-94); Co-Chair, Orange County Bar Assn. Committee on Gender Bias (1992-95); Board of Directors, Orange County Performing Arts Center (1994—); Calif. Judges Assn., 1981—; Juvenile Court Task Force for Implementation of 1987 Abortion Consent Law; Southern Calif. chapter, Certified Family Law Specialists, 1980—; Board of Visitors, Loyola Law School, 1978—; Loyola Alumni Assn., Orange County, 1978— (Chair, Orange County chapter, 1998); and Raygal Design Associates, Inc., 1972— (Secretary and member, Board of Directors, 1973—). Former Member: Calif. Judicial Council's Advisory Committee on Gender Bias in the Courts, 1987-91; Governor's Committee, CJER, 1984-87 (Chair, 1986-87); Orange County Bar Assn., 1971-81 (member, Judiciary & Client Relations Committee, 1976-81; founder and Chair 1974-75), Women & Individual Rights Section; Delegate, Calif. State Bar Convention, 1974); The Webb Schools Board of Governors, 1985-89; Board of Directors, 32nd District State Agricultural Assn., Orange County, 1976 through 1980; and Board of Directors, Girl Scouts, Orange County, 1977-78. Recipient: "Outstanding Service to Family Law Award (1997)" from American Bar Assn. Family Law Section; Community Service Award (1994) from Orange County's Public Law Center; and Distinguished Service Award (1991), from Loyola Law School Alumni Assn. Named Jurist of the Year (1991) by State Bar's Family Law Section; and "Outstanding Judge of the Year" (June 13, 1988) by Orange County Women Lawyers. Honored by YYCA (1984) for accomplishments in law; "Franklin G. West Award" (1996), Orange County Bar

Assn.; “Family Law Person of the Year Award” (1; 93), American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers.

**Teaching/Lectures/Panelist:** Speaker, 23rd Annual Family Law Symposium, 1991. Participant, CEB program, Representing Clients in Upousal and Child Support Proceedings, 1983 (moderator). Instructor (Family Law), Irvine Univ. School of Law, Irvine, Calif., 1973-94. Served as speaker for: National Organization of Women; National Women’s Political Caucus; Occidental College Alumni Assn.; Hadassch; Pomona College Alumni Assn.; ORT; E.F. Hutton and Co.; Univ. of Calif., Irvine; Young Presidents Organization; Bridging the Gap; Calif. Trial Lawyers Assn.; and Family Law Section, Orange County Bar Assn.

**Publications:** Author: American Bar Assn. *Family Advocate*, Aug. 1994, Vol. 17, No. 1, “Addressing Bias at the Appellate Level”; “Gender Bias in the Courts,” *Orange County Trial Lawyers Assn.* (summer 1987); “Women in the Law. or What You Always Wanted to Know About the Law but Never Thought to Ask,” *Orange County Bar*, No. 4 (3973). Contributing author, *Ney Dawp Magazine*, 1977.

**Education:** J.D. (June 1967), Loyola Univ. Law School [now Loyola Law School], Los Angeles, Calif. (member, U. Thomas More Law Honor Society); B.A. (June 1967, Economics), Univ. of Calif., Los Angeles (Westwood) (member, Economics Honor Society); Graduate (1; 63), Chadwick School, Palos Verdes, Calif.

**Personal:** Born July 9, 1945; Butte, Montana, and reared in Las Vegas, Nevada; Married. Three children.

**Admission:** Admitted to Calif. Bar and to U.S. Dist. Court, Central Dist. of Calif., Jan. 7, 1971; and to U.S. Supreme Court in Nov. 1980.

**Political Affiliation/Religion:** Registered Democrat; Jewish (member: Temple Bat Yahm, Newport Beach, 1973— (Chair, Board of Governors, 1979-81); and Community Relations Committee, Jewish Federation Council, 1977-79; founding member and Secretary of Sisterhood of Temple Bat Yahm. 1975-96; member, Jewish Federation Council of Orange County, 1972-95; Co-Chair, Attorneys Division, United Jewish Appeal of Orange County, 1973).