

North Las Vegas Justice Court - Department 1

Chief Judge Kalani Hoo

Chief Judge Kalani Hoo was elected to serve as Justice of the Peace in 2012. Prior to his election, Judge Hoo was a partner at the law firm of Eichhorn & Hoo, LLC, practicing criminal and civil law in both state and federal court. He has been licensed to practice law since 1998.

Judge Hoo attended law school in San Diego, California. While in school, he interned with numerous public interest groups, including Legal Aid of San Diego; the East Palo Alto Community Law Project; and Utility Consumers' Action Network. He served on the Moot Court trial team, and was vice president of the Pan Asian Law Students Association.

Judge Hoo has been involved with many community organizations. Since 2009, he has volunteered as an advocate attorney for the United States Veterans Initiative, assisting homeless veterans with their various legal issues. He was voted "Favorite Partner" in 2012 and 2013 by those he has assisted.

He has volunteered as a Truancy Diversion Judge at a North Las Vegas middle school since 2012. The program is designed to improve student attendance and grades by involving parents, students, and teachers.

Judge Hoo also co-founded and currently presides over the North Las Vegas Community Court. By partnering with a team of criminal justice and social service professionals, the Community Court focuses on rehabilitating 18-25 year olds who are charged with non-violent offenses. This individualized approach to justice creates a treatment model that helps defendants change their criminal lifestyle and reduces recidivism rates. Through a combination of counseling, drug treatment, community service, and job training, the participants learn how to live a productive, lawful, and self-sufficient lifestyle. Community Court is held on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month at 10:00 a.m.

In 2021, Judge Hoo assumed responsibility for the only Veterans' Court in North Las Vegas, which began in 2014. Veterans' Court is a type of specialty court that is charged with trying cases of minor offenses which involve military veterans, particularly those diagnosed with service-related illnesses. The goal of the program is to restore veterans to the law-abiding citizens they were before their experience in the military and combat. The specialty court does not receive any specific funding – judges must carve time out of their schedule to handle the cases. Others involved in facilitating the program do so on a volunteer basis. The Veterans' Court hearings are held at 9:30 a.m. every Tuesday.