



Lauren Ogata graduated from the University of California, Berkeley in 2005 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology. She received her law degree from Santa Clara University School of Law in 2009.

After more than a decade away, Ms. Ogata returns to this Office, where she began her local prosecutorial career as a law clerk in 2008 and 2009.

Ms. Ogata moved to San Diego, California in 2010 and served as a volunteer Deputy District Attorney Pro Tem in the San Diego County District Attorney's Office. She served, for a brief period, as a Deputy District Attorney in Contra Costa County before being hired as a Deputy District Attorney in San Diego in September 2011.

During her seven year tenure in San Diego, Ms. Ogata worked in a variety of assignments including Superior Court (general felonies), Juvenile (handling domestic violence and sexual assault cases) and, most recently, Sex Crimes and Human Trafficking. She tried 31 felony and misdemeanor trials to verdict. These trials included: human trafficking, assault with the intent to commit rape, mayhem, assault with a deadly weapon, mental competency extensions, and a three-defendant assault trial.

San Diego County Assistant District Attorney Dwain Woodley – the second in command in that office – called Ms. Ogata “one of [the] most valuable [prosecutors]” in the 320-lawyer office. He wrote: “Every division requested that [Lauren] be assigned to it because of her productivity and reputation both in and out of the court.”

In 2018, Ms. Ogata resigned to travel the world. For more than a year, she and her husband, a former U.S. Marine helicopter pilot, traveled the globe with nothing more than a carry-on and backpack. She studied Spanish in the former safehouse of Pablo Escobar, swam in the piranha-filled waters of the Amazon rainforest, had her passports stolen by pickpockets in Barcelona, stood amongst the migrating wildebeests in the Maasai Mara, and tried to find the best banh mi in Vietnam.

Following her adventures, Ms. Ogata returned home to the Bay Area to be closer to her family. It was her Japanese-American grandparents whose lives inspired Lauren to become the first college graduate and first lawyer in her family. They were imprisoned at the Heart Mountain and Tule Lake internment camps during World War II. “My sweet Japanese grandma wouldn't hurt a fly, but she was sent to an internment camp and discriminated against simply because of the way she looked. I grew up wanting to make sure that people like my grandparents had someone standing up for them and giving them a voice. I feel so incredibly lucky to now be a part of an office that works to seek justice and give a voice to victims.”