

Carol Ruth Silver Former Director of Prisoner Legal Services San Francisco Sheriff's Department, California San Francisco, CA

Carol Ruth Silver is licensed to practice law in California, before federal courts, and the U.S. Supreme Court. She was elected to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and served three terms.

In 2007, after a robust political career, Silver accepted an appointment as Director of Prisoner Legal Services for the San Francisco Sheriff's Department, where she provided counsel for incarcerated men and women.

Silver hails from Boston. She earned a B.A. with honors and a J.D. from Chicago University. She was a Fellow at Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government. Her extensive civic and philanthropic activities stem from a deep and enduring passion for social justice. Silver was among the Freedom Riders who challenged segregation in the South, spending 40 days in Mississippi jails. She was one of the first attorneys to head a California Rural Legal Assistance office. She devotes considerable time and energy to several diverse social justice projects.

In 2002, she traveled to Afghanistan to explore ways American citizens could extend the hand of friendship to the Afghan people and, upon returning, co-founded the Afghan Friends Network and a Sister City Committee between Hayward, California and Ghazni, Afghanistan.

She was honored with the University of Chicago Alumni Association's Public Service Award in June 2009.

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