

Tayebe Parsa – Biography

Tayebe Parsa is a former judge from Afghanistan with over a decade of judicial experience across multiple divisions of the courts in Kabul Province, including service in the Commercial Division of the Appellate Court. During her tenure on the bench, Judge Parsa presided over complex commercial, contractual, financial, civil, administrative, and property disputes. Her docket frequently involved loan agreements, real estate and construction contracts, government procurement matters, corporate governance issues, and disputes arising from foreign subcontracts, giving her extensive expertise in commercial law in both domestic and international contexts.

Judge Parsa began her legal career after completing the Supreme Court of Afghanistan's judicial training program. She served in the Primary Commercial Court, the Primary Court's Public Rights Division, the Civil Division of Primary Courts, and ultimately the Commercial Division of the Appellate Court of Kabul. In addition to her judicial duties, she lectured in the Supreme Court's judicial training program, teaching commercial and administrative law, and mentoring judicial candidates in legal analysis, case evaluation, and written decision drafting.

From 2020 to 2021, Judge Parsa served as Communications Officer for the Afghan Women Judges Association (AWJA), an affiliated organization of the International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ). In this role, she coordinated communications strategy, advocated for enhanced security protections for Afghan women judges, and maintained frequent contact with international partners. Judge Parsa translated the AWJA's founding documents into English, provided regular updates to the IAWJ regarding security threats, and supported public advocacy efforts, including preparing statements condemning attacks against women judges. She spoke at the IAWJ biennial conference in May 2021, conducted interviews with international media outlets including PBS Newshour and Radio Canada, and engaged with institutions such as the European Parliament, Duke Law School, and the Bolch Judicial Institute to raise awareness of the risks facing Afghan women judges. She also assisted in gathering and managing critical information to support the safe evacuation of judges and their families. Her work with the AWJA and IAWJ was recognized for its instrumental role in advocating for human rights, judicial safety, and women's professional participation under extreme threat.

Following the fall of Kabul in August 2021, Judge Parsa was evacuated and began rebuilding her professional career abroad. She participated in the Support for Afghan Scholars Program in Poland, conducting comparative research on criminal sentencing frameworks and judicial practice, before relocating to the United States to continue her legal education and professional development.

Judge Parsa earned an LL.M. with a Business Law Certificate from Duke University School of Law. In the United States, she has engaged in limited consulting and externship work involving arbitration, Afghan law, and review of legal documents. While searching for a permanent position, she is preparing for the U.S. bar exam with the goal of resuming her legal career and returning to active practice.

Today, Judge Parsa continues to contribute her expertise on Afghan law, conducts country-conditions analyses for humanitarian and refugee matters, and participates in research and professional efforts to enhance international understanding of Afghanistan's legal system and the challenges faced by women judges. Her work reflects a sustained commitment to judicial independence, women's rights, and the rule of law, even in the most challenging circumstances.