



Hon. Andrew J. Guilford, Ret.



Results Beyond DisputeSM

Following nearly 14 years of distinguished service on the bench for the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California, Southern Division, Honorable Andrew Guilford has retired and is available to serve as a mediator, arbitrator, and private judge, including special master assignments, and case evaluator. During his judicial tenure, Judge Guilford sat by designation on the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and is one of only two Central District Judges to have been invited to sit at the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. He served as one of the few Patent Pilot Program judges in the Central District. As a federal judge, Guilford heard over a hundred trials, sometimes sitting without a jury, on matters including patent, trademark, copyright, defective products, securities, employment, civil rights, professional liability, class actions, MDL, and of course, criminal matters. Before his appointment in 2006, Judge Guilford served as an arbitrator and Judge Pro Tem for the Orange County Superior Court, leveraging the experience he gained as a trial lawyer for more than 31 years. At Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton for his entire career as a lawyer, he tried complex commercial cases across a variety of industries, such as major league sports, medical devices, banking and finance, real property, telecommunications, and entertainment. At a young age, he was elected to the American College of Trial Lawyers. Judge Guilford's love for the community and passion for giving back is evidenced in his more than four decades and countless hours lecturing and authoring for law schools, religious entities, legal publications, bar associations, and judicial organizations both nationally and internationally. As a trial lawyer and judge, he has received many prestigious awards from various bar associations, including the Orange County Bar Association's Franklin G. West Award—the organization's highest honor, presented to outstanding attorneys and judges whose lifetime achievements have advanced justice and law. Judge Guilford has earned a reputation for his compassionate, intellectual, fair, intuitive, and hardworking demeanor, all qualities he brings to the private sector. One attorney commented: "Judge Guilford always has been prepared, committed and well respected. Following many years of private practice on complex matters and on the bench, he treated lawyers with respect and gave them the opportunity to represent their clients, while achieving justice. He was always actively engaged and personable, and he operated with supreme verve. These attributes certainly will make him highly in demand, as both a private judge and a mediator, and rightly so."

LEGAL CAREER & PRIOR EXPERIENCE

- Neutral, Judicate West (2020-Present); Co-Chair of the Federal Practice Group (2023-Present)
- United States District Judge, Central District of California, Southern Division (2006-2020)
- Partner & former Associate, Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton handling complex commercial litigation with an emphasis on patents, trademarks, finance including securities, banking, real estate, contracts, unfair competition, defamation, civil rights, partnerships, professional liability and class actions (1975-2006)

EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- J.D. University of California, Los Angeles; Editor for the UCLA Law Review (1975)
- A.B. University of California, Los Angeles, summa cum laude, Regent Scholar, Phi Beta Kappa (1972)
- University of California, Irvine, School of Law, Dean's Advisory Council (Present)
- Chapman University School of Law, Board of Visitors (Present)
- Federal Bar Association, Board of Directors (2001-2020)
- 9th Circuit Jury Instructions Committee (2018-2020)
- Judicial Conference Committee on Codes of Conduct (2011-2017)

PRACTICE AREAS

ACHIEVEMENTS & AWARDS

- Howard T. Markey Intellectual Property American Inn of Court, President & Co-Founder (2013-2015)
- State Bar Commission on Access to Justice (2008-2013)
- UC Irvine School of Law, Adjunct Professor (2013)
- Public Law Center, President (2004-2006)
- California Supreme Court Advisory Task Force on Multijurisdictional Practice (2001-2003)
- Association of Business Trial Lawyers (ABTL) of Orange County, President & Co-Founder (2000-2001)
- District Judges Association, President (2017-2019)
- State Bar of California, President (1999-2000)
- American College of Trial Lawyers, Fellow (1992)
- Orange County Bar Association, President (OCBA) (1991)
- Orange County Bar Association Delegation to the Conference of Delegate, Chair
- Orange County Bar Association Business Litigation Section, Chair

Business/Contractual; Civil Rights; Class Actions; Employment; Finance/Securities; Multidistrict Litigation; Patents; Professional Liability; Real Estate; Trademark/Copyright

- Speaker, International Symposium on Judicial Enforcement of Intellectual Property, Beijing, China (January 2020)
- Speaker, Best Practices in IP Litigation, Berkeley – Tsinghua Transnational IP Litigation Conference, Berkeley, CA (October 2019)
- Speaker, Best Practices in Patent Litigation, The Sedona Conference, Philadelphia, PA (March 2019)
- Recipient, Professionalism Award, American Inns of Court (2018)
- Recipient, Distinguished Public Service Award, Los Angeles Intellectual Property Law Association (LAIPLA) (2016)
- Recipient, Judicial Excellence Award, Orange County Asian American Bar Association (2014)
- Named 5 times by the Daily Journal, "California's Top 100 Attorneys"
- Selected as a "Southern California Super Lawyer (2004-2006)"
- Selected as one of 50 "Best Lawyers in Orange County"
- Selected as one of "Best Lawyers in America"
- Recipient, Franklin G. West Award, Orange County Bar Association (2003)
- Recipient, Jurisprudence Award, Anti-Defamation League (2002)
- Recipient, Distinguished Judge Award, Orange County Intellectual Property Law Association
- Recipient, Judge Alicemarie H. Stotler Award, Orange County Federal Bar Association
- Recipient, Judge of the Year Award, Orange County Hispanic Bar Association
- Recipient, J. Reuben Clark Award, J. Reuben Clark Society
- Recipient, Bernard E. Witkin Amicus Curiae Award, Judicial Council
- Named Business Litigation Trial Lawyer of the Year, Orange County Trial Lawyers Association
- Honored by UCI School of Law as a "True Founder of the School of Law"
- Contributing Editor, Civil Procedure, The Rutter Group
- Judge Guilford has written articles appearing in many places, including the UCLA Law Review, the Pennsylvania Law Review, the FIU Law Review, the Daily Journal, the California Bar Journal, and the Journal of the Litigation Section.
- A popular speaker, he has been asked to speak on many topics in many places from China to New York. His long list of hundreds of programs goes back to a 1978 CEB program on Civil Litigation, followed by a 1982 program on the leverage of negotiations, and a 1984 CEB program on negotiating civil settlements.

HOBBIES & INTERESTS

Judge Guilford's interests are varied and include traveling, writing, poetry, photography, theater, and sports, being a fan of UCLA, the Dodgers, Lakers, and Rams, and playing basketball and tennis. Time with his family is most valued, and he is proud of his grandson and two granddaughters.

LOCATIONS

Orange County, Nationwide