



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 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)

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)

PRACTICE AREAS

Business/Commercial, Cannabis, Employment, Federal, Insurance, Intellectual Property, Professional Malpractice, Real Estate, Tort

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Speaker, International Symposium on Judicial Enforcement of Intellectual Property, Beijing, China (January 2020)

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