



Hon. Christopher Warner, Ret.



Results Beyond DisputeSM

Judge Warner began his career resolving disputes as a claims professional with a major multiple-line insurance company in Seattle, Washington. He received national recognition from the Insurance Institute of America in both property and casualty claim resolution. After working in that industry for eight years, he decided to attend law school in the evenings. He graduated first in his class, with honors, and embarked upon a successful career as a civil trial lawyer in Southern California with two prominent Inland Empire firms. Martindale-Hubbell recognized him with an AV rating. He was also admitted to ABOTA, and currently holds the rank of Advocate. Following his appointment to the bench in San Bernardino County by Gov. Pete Wilson in 1996, Judge Warner served with distinction for 14 years as a Superior Court trial judge. He presided over more than 50 criminal jury trials as well as more than 300 hundred civil jury trials involving class actions, insurance bad faith cases, and all manner of tort, contract, employment, real estate, and public entity controversies. During his tenure on the bench, Judge Warner also held a number of supervisory and administrative positions. He conducted thousands of civil settlement conferences and is highly regarded by both sides of the bar for his settlement skills. He continues to speak at legal and educational functions, including "Bridging the Gap," where he revels in addressing civility and courtroom demeanor for new lawyers. In addition to his work with Judicate West, Judge Warner volunteers at the 4th District Court of Appeals, Division 2, as a mediator. He thoroughly enjoys the opportunity to interact with counsel and their clients, and to bring resolution and closure to conflicts.

LEGAL CAREER & PRIOR EXPERIENCE

- Neutral, Judicate West (2012-Present)
- Superior Court Judge, San Bernardino County (1996-2010)
- Adjunct Professor, California Southern Law School (Evidence) (1990-1991)
- Principal, Managing Partner, Stanfield & Warner (1986-1996)
- Attorney & Shareholder, MacLachlan, Burford & Arias (1977-1986)
- Insurance Claim Representative, Supervisor, Manager, Maryland Casualty Co. (1969-1977)
- Jig & Fixture Builder, Boeing Aircraft Company (737 & 747 startups) (1966-1969)

EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- J.D., California Southern Law School (honors), Valedictorian (1977)
- B.S.L., Citrus Belt Law School (1975)
- A.A. Everett (WA) Community College (1968)
- ABOTA, Member (1994-Present) Rank: Advocate
- Joseph B. Campbell Chapter, American Inns of Court, Member (1990-2002, 2015-Present)
- Association of Southern Defense Counsel, Member (1977-1996); Board Member (1991-1993)
- San Bernardino County Bar Association, Member (1977-1996; Present)
- Legal Aid Society of San Bernardino, Director (2013-Present)
- Volunteer Center of the Inland Empire, Director (1988-2003)

PRACTICE AREAS

Employment; Insurance Bad Faith/Contract Actions; Government Tort Liability; Personal Injury; Professional Negligence

ACHIEVEMENTS & AWARDS

- Insurance Institute of America, Property Claims Adjusting: Highest National Exam score (1972)
- Insurance Institute of America, Casualty Claims Adjusting: Highest National Exam score (1973)
- San Bernardino County Bar Association Kaufman-Campbell Award recipient (2005)
- ABOTA, San Bernardino-Riverside Chapter President (2005)

HOBBIES & INTERESTS

LOCATIONS

- ABOTA Trial Judge of the Year, San Bernardino-Riverside Chapter (2006)
- Western San Bernardino County Bar Association Judge of the Year (2011)
- San Bernardino County Bar Association Career Achievement Recognition (2011)
- AV rating, Martindale-Hubbell

The judge is an avid baseball fan, his favorite team being the Angels. He also plays golf, loves music, traveling, and road trips, and he is a "car guy".

Orange County, Nationwide