



Hon. Christopher Warner, Ret.



Results Beyond DisputeSM

Judge Warner's distinguished career in dispute resolution began over 50 years ago, when he started as a claims professional with a major multiline insurance company in Seattle, Washington. He earned national recognition from the Insurance Institute of America for excellence in both property and casualty claim resolution. He went on to build a successful career as a civil trial attorney with two prominent Inland Empire firms in Southern California. Admired by the legal community for his intellect, tenacity, professionalism, and integrity, he was inducted into the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA), achieving the rank of Advocate. Appointed to the San Bernardino County Superior Court in 1996, Judge Warner served with distinction for 14 years. During his tenure, he presided over more than 50 criminal jury trials and over 300 civil jury trials, including complex matters involving class actions, insurance bad faith, torts, contracts, employment disputes, real estate, and public entity litigation. He also held various supervisory and administrative roles on the bench. Notably, he conducted hundreds of civil settlement conferences and is widely respected by both plaintiff and defense counsel for his effectiveness in facilitating resolution. In addition to his work with Judicate West, Judge Warner volunteers as a mediator with the 4th District Court of Appeal, Division 2. He remains deeply committed to helping parties and counsel find meaningful closure through thoughtful, solution-oriented engagement.

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)
- 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)

HOBBIES & INTERESTS

LOCATIONS

- AV rating, Martindale-Hubbell

Judge Warner and his wife Margie love music, traveling, and road trips. He is also a self-proclaimed 'car guy.'

Orange County, Nationwide