



## Hon. David C. Velasquez, Ret.



*Results Beyond Dispute<sup>SM</sup>*

Judge Velasquez retired in 2011, after 23 years of service for the Orange County Superior Court and currently serves as a mediator, arbitrator and private judge. During his tenure on the bench he sat in almost every department including the Appellate Department. However, his primary assignments were on the civil and complex civil panels. One of his most challenging and fulfilling assignments was as a judge on the Court's Complex Civil Panel, where he served for seven years starting in May, 2004. For four years of that term he served as the Supervising Judge. While sitting on the Court's Complex Civil Panel, he had the task of managing an average case load of 250 complex actions including dozens of complex business disputes, and over 100 class actions and construction defect actions alike. His case load included several mass tort actions involving national and international product liability/pharmaceutical claims, as well as a train crash - each such case numbering 125 to 250 plaintiffs. Judge Velasquez loves to mediate and is proud that he personally participated in helping the parties settle scores of these actions including several "inventory" settlements as a way of managing the mass torts. Lawyers assigned to his court in these cases would soon become accustomed to the judge's "Sweeps Weeks" where he cleared his regular calendar to accommodate back-to-back settlement conferences for 1 to 2 weeks at a time on a single case. One attorney said, "It's unfortunate that he is leaving the bench, but I will definitely use him as a mediator or arbitrator. He's fair, a genuinely nice guy and you can tell how much he cares." Many others have concurred labeling him as "nice", "a true gentleman" and "fair to all parties".

### LEGAL EXPERIENCE

- Neutral, Judicate West (2011-Present)
- Judge, Orange County Superior Court (1990-2011)

### EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- J.D. Loyola Law School, Los Angeles (1978)
- B.A. California State University, Los Angeles (1973)

### PRACTICE AREAS

Business/Commercial, Construction, Employment, Insurance, Probate, Professional Malpractice, Real Estate, Tort

### ACHIEVEMENTS

- Honored by the Orange County Chapter of the Hispanic Bar Association as the "Jurist of the Year" (2011)
- He has collaborated on an article for the Orange County Lawyer Magazine entitled "The Watchdog Role of the Court-Determination of fairness of proposed class action settlements." (September 2007)

### INTERESTS

In his spare time Judge Velasquez enjoys studying World War II aircraft/model building, power walking, hiking and has a life goal of visiting every National Park in the U.S.

### LOCATIONS

Orange County, All of California