



Hon. Steven R. Denton, Ret.



Results Beyond DisputeSM

Since joining Judicate West in 2013 following his retirement from the San Diego Superior Court, Judge Denton has mediated thousands of cases. He is experienced in a broad spectrum of complex litigation disputes and specializes in catastrophic personal injury, product liability, sexual harassment, medical malpractice, and insurance matters. He has also successfully settled Wage and Hour class action matters and associated PAGA claims and is well-versed in employment litigation. He brings a deep mastery of the law to each case and is highly respected for his ability to handle sensitive, emotionally charged issues thoughtfully and with care. He is best known for his energetic and pragmatic approach to problem-solving as well as his tenacious drive to resolve difficult cases. Many attorneys comment that they appreciate the valuable perspective from a combined 50 years as an experienced judge and successful litigator that Judge Denton brings to the mediation process.

LEGAL CAREER & PRIOR EXPERIENCE

- Neutral, Judicate West (2013-Present)
- Judge, San Diego Superior Court (2001 - 2013)
- Civil Independent Calendar Judge, General and Complex Cases (2004-2013)
- Family Law Independent Calendar Judge (2001-2004)
- Partner, Ludecke, Denton, & Bunn (1978 - 2001)
- Associate Attorney, Ludecke and Andreos (1975 - 1978)

EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- JD, University of San Diego School of Law (1975)
- BA, University of California Santa Barbara, Environmental Biology (1972)
- Mediating the Litigated Case, Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution, Pepperdine University School of Law (2013)
- San Diego County Judges Association, President (2007-08)
- California Judges Association, Member (2001-13)
- ABOTA, SD Chapter President (2001), Board of Directors (1998-02), Member (1992 - Present)
- Cal-ABOTA, Board of Directors (2001)
- ABTL, Judicial Advisory Council (2009 to Present), Member (2007 to Present)
- San Diego County Bar Association, VP (1994), Board of Directors (1991-1994), Member (1975 to Present)
- San Diego Inn of Court, President (1994), Board of Directors (1991 - 1994)
- Consumer Attorneys of San Diego & California, President SD (1986), CA Board (1986-91, 95 & 97)
- Inns of Court: Clifford B. Wallace, President (2010-11) Founding Member 2005 - Present, William B Enright (2001-03), Oliver Wendell Holmes (2003-05)

PRACTICE AREAS

All types of Personal Injury including Catastrophic and Sexual Harassment; Business/Commercial; Employment; Family Law; Insurance Coverage + Bad Faith; Professional Malpractice; Real Estate

ACHIEVEMENTS & AWARDS

- Pillar of the Legal Community Award (2024)
- Trial Lawyer Hall of Fame (2014) Consumer Attorneys of San Diego.
- David S. Casey Trial Lawyer of the Year (1991) Consumer Attorneys of San Diego.
- Distinguished Alumni of the Year (1995) University of San Diego School of Law.
- Outstanding Trial Lawyer Awards (1997, 1981, 1982, 1991, 1999, & 2001) Consumer Attorneys of San Diego.
- Lifetime Accomplishment & Dedication Award (2013) San Diego County Bar Association and San Diego Family Law Bar Association.
- Outstanding Service Award (2005) North County Certified Family Law Specialists

HOBBIES & INTERESTS

- Outstanding Service Award for Special Events (2000) Consumer Attorneys of San Diego.
- Presidential Award of Merit: Establishing Excellence in Legal Education (1992) San Diego Trial Lawyers Association.
- Special Commendation: Leadership in the Protection of the Civil Justice System (1988) San Diego Trial Lawyers Association.

Judge Denton frequently enjoys international travel with his wife, who is an accomplished litigator, deep sea fishing, running, skiing, golf, and coordinating the activity, school, and athletic schedules for his two young adopted foster children, who are 15 & 16. Despite being a "weekend golfer," Judge Denton is lucky and has two "holes in one" and three "eagles" to his credit. He spent most of his youth overseas and went to high school in Berlin, Germany arriving in 1961 as the "Wall" was being built. He also enjoys spending his free time with his older daughter, who is a former Federal Prosecutor in Washington. D.C., now in private practice in San Diego, and a son who is a Microsoft software engineer team leader in Los Angeles.

LOCATIONS

San Diego, All of California