



Hon. Thierry Patrick Colaw, Ret.



In 2018, after 21 years of distinguished service for the Orange County Superior Court, Judge Colaw retired and currently serves as a mediator. After 11 years on the General Civil Panel, Judge Colaw served for 9 years on the Complex Civil Panel, where he developed an unparalleled track record, presiding over a broad spectrum of challenging cases including employment class actions, construction defects, toxic torts, CEQA and other multi-party complex matters. Judge Colaw is a long-time active member of the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA) and Association of Business Trial Lawyers (ABTL). He is the proud recipient of many judicial honors including several "Judge of the Year" awards from various organizations. Prior to serving on the bench, Judge Colaw was in private practice for 20 years representing both plaintiffs and defendants in all types of civil litigation. Judge Colaw, a U.S. Navy veteran who served two tours of duty in Vietnam, is an alumnus of the Santa Clara University School of Law, and the University of California, Los Angeles.

LEGAL CAREER & PRIOR EXPERIENCE

- Neutral, Judicate West (2018-Present)
- Judge, Superior Court, Orange County (1997-2018); Complex Civil Panel (2006-2010 and 2014-2017); General Civil Panel (1997-2005 and 2011-2013)
- Partner, Hunt, Colaw & Adams, Civil Litigation (1993-1997)
- Partner, Hunt & Colaw, Civil Litigation (1990-1992)
- Partner, Hunt, Colaw & Roe, Civil Litigation (1985-1989)
- Attorney, Vernon W. Hunt, Civil Litigation (1979-1984)
- Attorney, Smith & Brissenden, Insurance Defense Litigation (1977-1979)

EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- J.D., University of Santa Clara Law School (1977)
- B. A., Cum Laude, University of California, Los Angeles (1974)
- American Board of Trial Advocates, Member (ABOTA), (2001-Present)
- ABOTA Orange County Chapter, President (2012), Board Member (2006-2014)
- CAL-ABOTA, Board Member (2011-2013)
- Assoc. of Business Trial Lawyers, Board or Judicial Advisory Board Member (ABTL); (2006-2018)
- Robert J. Banyard Inn of Court, Member (1998-Present); President (2000)
- Orange County Superior Court, Executive Committee (2006-2015)
- California Judges Association, Board of Directors (CJA); (2007 – 2010)
- Orange County Bar Association, Board of Directors (OCBA); (1982-1996)
- California State Bar Committee on the Administration of Justice, Member (1989-1992)
- Orange County Trial Lawyers Association, President (1989)
- Orange County Barristers, President (1983)

PRACTICE AREAS

All types of Personal Injury; Business/Contractual; Class Actions; Construction Defect; Environmental/CEQA; General Maritime Law; Insurance Coverage/Bad Faith; Mass Tort; Product Liability including Pharmaceutical; Professional Malpractice

ACHIEVEMENTS & AWARDS

- George Francis Judicial Civility Award Recipient, American Board of Trial Advocates (2015)
- Judicial Excellence & Integrity Award, Orange County Trial Lawyers Association (2004)
- Judge of the Year, Business Trial Lawyer Section of Orange County Bar Association (2003)
- Judge of the Year, American Board of Trial Advocates (2000)
- Judicial Civility Award, Robert J. Banyard Inn of Court (1999)
- Jerrold Oliver Award, Orange County Trial Lawyers Association

HOBBIES & INTERESTS

- Lecturer/panelist for American Board of Trial Advocates, The Rutter Group, CEB, California Judicial Education Research, Orange County Bar Association, Orange County Superior Court Temporary Judge Program

Judge Colaw is a sports enthusiast who yearly in autumn travels to college football meccas for big games with his brothers and sons. He especially loves all classical music, most jazz, some pop, enjoys photography, bicycling, the beach, cooking French cuisine with his spouse, and travel anywhere, although especially the USA and Europe.

LOCATIONS

Orange County