



Thomas S. Dillard, Esq.



Results Beyond DisputeSM

A trial attorney for over 23 years, Tom has resolved hundreds of matters through arbitration, mediation, and trial, representing both plaintiffs and defendants. For the past 16 years, he has utilized his extensive litigation experience and mediation training from Pepperdine University's Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution to pursue a full-time ADR practice, focusing on mediation and arbitration. Prior to joining JW, Mr. Dillard was a founding partner and full-time Mediator/Arbitrator with Resolve It, a conflict solution company. To date, Mr. Dillard has mediated in excess of 3,000 cases and arbitrated more than 500 litigated matters. His experience encompasses a wide range of civil litigation, with particular expertise in medical malpractice, elder abuse, product liability, construction accidents, insurance coverage, and all types of personal injury. Both plaintiff and defense attorneys have commented favorably on Mr. Dillard's ADR abilities, crediting his demeanor, ability to listen, perseverance, and his diverse background representing both plaintiff and defense clients. One attorney commented, "His patience, skill, and insight are the only reason this case settled." Another attorney added, "He is very knowledgeable, perceptive, and persistent. His demeanor is excellent for a neutral."

LEGAL CAREER & PRIOR EXPERIENCE

- Neutral, Judicate West (2003-Present)
- Full-time Mediator/Arbitrator, Resolve It (1999-2000)
- Judge Pro Tempore, Superior Court Settlement Conferences (1998-2005)
- Orange County Superior Court Arbitration Panel (1985-2005)
- Private General Civil Litigation Practice, San Clemente, CA (1996-98)
- Managing Partner, Dicaro, Highman, D'Antony, Dillard, Fuller & Gregor (1991-96)
- Partner, Dillard & Fuller, then Highman, Dillard & Fuller (1985-91)
- Trial Attorney, Law Offices of Wylie Aitken (1984-85)
- Trial Attorney, Barnes, Johnson, Carlson, Harris & successor firms (1979-84)
- Marketing Representative, Mobil Oil Corp. & Tanco Development (1974-84)

EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- J.D., Western State University (1976)
- B.A., California State University, Fullerton (1970)
- California and Orange County Bar Associations, Member
- Orange County Trial Lawyers Association, Former Board Member
- Southern California Defense Counsel and Consumer Attorneys of California, Former Member
- Orange County Chapter, American Board of Trial Advocates, Past President
- International Academy of Mediators, Distinguished Fellow
- The Masters Forum, Straus Institute of Dispute Resolution, Panelist (2003)

PRACTICE AREAS

Business/Contractual Matters; Complex Civil Litigation; Elder Abuse; Employment; Insurance Coverage/Bad Faith; Medical Malpractice; Products Liability; Real Estate

ACHIEVEMENTS & AWARDS

- Mr. Dillard was named by Los Angeles Magazine as one of California's "Super Lawyers", 2014 & 2013, in the field of Alternative Dispute Resolution.
- Mr. Dillard is a Board Member of the San Clemente Community Theatre.
- In 2010 and 2015 he was selected by the Daily Journal as a Top 50 Neutral in California.

HOBBIES & INTERESTS

In his spare time, Mr. Dillard enjoys running, acting and golf.

LOCATIONS

Orange County, Southern California