



Hon. John Leo Wagner, Ret.



Results Beyond DisputeSM

Judge Wagner is a seasoned legal professional with over 40 years of experience as a trial lawyer, judge, and neutral. Before his appointment, he represented clients on both sides and tried complex cases in state and federal courts. At the age of 31, he was appointed as a United States Magistrate Judge in the Northern District of Oklahoma, where he was tasked with reducing the court's extensive backlog. He successfully achieved this by establishing a court-annexed mediation program while maintaining a full civil calendar and serving as a mediator. His innovative program became an example for federal courts across the country. After 12 years of dedicated service, he left the court to pursue his passion for alternative dispute resolution full-time. He co-founded the ADR Center at Irell & Manella before joining Judicate West in 2005. Throughout his career, he has served as a mediator, arbitrator, private judge, special master, and referee in thousands of cases. Judge Wagner specializes in legally challenging matters involving multiple parties and has earned a reputation for excelling in particularly protracted, difficult, and emotionally charged cases. He prides himself in his persistence and consistently utilizes new and creative techniques to help parties achieve resolution.

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

- Neutral, Judicate West (2005 - Present)
- Neutral, Irell & Manella ADR Center, Irell & Manella LLP, Los Angeles (1998-2005)
- U. S. Magistrate Judge, Northern District of Oklahoma, Tulsa (1985-1997)
- Trial Lawyer and Litigation Partner, Kornfeld & Franklin, Oklahoma City

EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- J.D., University of Oklahoma College of Law (1979)
- B.A., University of Oklahoma (1976)
- Past President and Distinguished Fellow of the International Academy of Mediators
- CPR Institution for Dispute Resolution Mediation Advisory Committee
- CPR/Georgetown Commission on Ethics and Standards in ADR
- United States Judicial Conference, Court Administration and Case Management Committee

PRACTICE AREAS

Business/Commercial, Employment, Environmental, Federal, Insurance, Intellectual Property, Professional Malpractice, Real Estate, Tort

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Named in every issue of Best Lawyers in America from 2007 through 2024, in the field of Alternative Dispute Resolution.
- Included on the Daily Journal's list of Master ADR Neutrals in California in 2014 (inclusion on this exclusive list required selection as one of California's Top Neutrals for the previous five years).

INTERESTS

In his spare time, Judge Wagner enjoys spending time with his wife and two sons, who share in his interest in muscle cars, backpacking, chess and travel.

LOCATIONS

Orange County, Nationwide