



Hon. David W. Abbott, Ret.



Results Beyond DisputeSM

After serving on the Sacramento Superior Court bench for 18 years, Judge Abbott joined Judicate West as a full-time neutral in 2020. During his tenure on the bench, he presided over civil and criminal jury trials, civil case management calendars, complex civil cases, and law and motion. Judge Abbott has earned a reputation as a fair, intelligent, and flexible judge and was awarded Judge of the Year by several organizations. Before his judicial career, he was a trial attorney for over 25 years in a tort litigation practice emphasizing product liability, professional negligence, general personal injury, and insurance bad faith. He was known as a respectful adversary trying dozens of cases and was admitted into the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA), where he is still an active member. Judge Abbott stated, "My goal as a professional neutral is to assist the parties to achieve settlement and resolve disputes with dignity, creativity, and respect. Judges don't settle cases; lawyers and litigants do."

LEGAL CAREER & PRIOR EXPERIENCE

- Full Time Neutral, Judicate West (2020-Present)
- Judge, Sacramento Superior Court (2002-2020), Assistant Presiding Judge 2008-2009 and 2018-2019, and four years as Supervising Judge at the Carol Miller Justice Center
- Judge, Sacramento Veterans' Treatment Court (2014-2019)
- Trial Attorney, Abbott & Nolen (1996-2001)
- Trial Attorney, Law Office of David W. Abbott (1990-1996)
- Trial Attorney, Gessford & Abbott (1983-1990)
- Trial Attorney, Gessford, Sevey & Alpar (1981-1983)
- Trial Attorney, Freidberg Law Corporation (1978-1981)

EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Strauss Institute for Dispute Resolution, Pepperdine/Caruso School of Law, Mediating the Litigated Case: The Art of Facilitating Settlement (August 2022)
- J.D. University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law (1973)
- B.A. University of California, Berkeley (1970)
- Sacramento County Bar Association, Member (1978-Present)
- Capitol City Trial Lawyers Association, Member (1978-2002)
- American Board of Trial Advocates, ABOTA, Sacramento Chapter, Member (1993-Present)
- California Judges Association, Member (2002-2020)
- Wiley Manuel Bar Association, Member (1996-2005)

PRACTICE AREAS

All Types of Personal Injury; Complex Litigation and Coordinated Actions; Insurance Bad Faith; Products Liability; Professional Negligence; Wrongful Death

ACHIEVEMENTS & AWARDS

- Distinguished Judicial Service Award, CCTLA 2019
- Judge of the Year award, Sacramento Bar Association 2017
- Judge of the Year award, ABOTA, Sacramento chapter 2011
- Judge of the Year award, CCTLA, 2008

HOBBIES & INTERESTS

Judge Abbott has been a Rotarian for 30 years and is an advocate for literacy in public schools, and serves on the advisory board of the Sacramento Chapter of Reading Partners, a nonprofit that tutors children in reading and spelling. He also enjoys golf, riding bicycles, reading, traveling, and crossword puzzles.

LOCATIONS

Northern California