



Hon. Geoffrey A. Goodman, Ret.



For more than 15 years, Judge Goodman served on the Sacramento County Superior Court bench as an active and assigned judge. For most of his judicial career, he was in a general trial assignment, presiding over all types of complex civil and criminal matters, retiring from the bench in 2022. He then served on an assignment basis for two years as the court's Supervising Civil Settlement Judge whereby he conducted hundreds of settlement conferences and supervised attorneys acting as judges pro tem, before joining Judicate West as a full-time neutral. He began his career as a deputy district attorney with the Los Angeles County District Attorney's office, helping launch the office's hardcore gang unit. He was a Deputy Attorney General for the California Attorney General's Office and founding member of the Major Fraud Unit, before he was promoted to serve as a Senior Assistant Attorney General, overseeing attorneys, auditors and law enforcement agents statewide. He also served as chief of white-collar criminal prosecutions for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of California. He spent a decade in private practice, focusing on civil litigation and white-collar defense, before his appointment to the bench in 2009. Judge Goodman's approach to ADR proceedings is to handle each case with patience, perseverance and respect, with the goal of reaching a fair resolution.

LEGAL CAREER & PRIOR EXPERIENCE

- Full-time Neutral, Judicate West (2025-Present)
- Supervising Civil Settlement Judge, Sacramento County Superior Court (2022-2024); Conducted more than 500 settlement conferences involving all type of cases, including, personal injury, wrongful death, elder abuse, fraud, employment issues, discrimination, malpractice, contract, business, property disputes, regulatory challenges and toxic torts.
- Judge, Sacramento County Superior Court (2009-2022); Presided over a wide variety of complex civil and criminal matters
- Partner, Nossaman LLP; Civil litigation, white collar defense, internal investigations (2008-2009)
- Partner, Murphy Austin Adams Schoenfeld LLP; Civil litigation, white collar defense, internal investigations (1999-2008)
- Partner, Diepenbrock Wulff Plant & Hannegan; Civil litigation, white collar defense (1998-1999)
- Chief of White Collar Criminal Prosecutions, U.S. Attorney's Office, Eastern District of California (1992-1998)
- Deputy Attorney General, Senior Assistant Attorney General, California Office of the Attorney General; Criminal Fraud Prosecutions; Founding Member of the Major Fraud Unit (1984-1991)
- Consultant, CA Assembly Committee on Criminal Justice (1981-1984)
- Deputy District Attorney, Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office; Criminal Prosecution; Founding Member of Hardcore Gang Unit (1977-1981)
- Clerk, California Supreme Court (1976-1977)

EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- J.D., UCLA School of Law (1973-1976)
- B.A., University of Southern California (1969-1973)
- ADR Certification: 'Mediating the Litigated Case,' Pepperdine University School of Law Straus Institute (2025)
- Anthony M. Kennedy Inn of Court, Member (2009-2013)
- Sacramento County Bar Association, Member (1999-2009)

PRACTICE AREAS

Business/Commercial; Construction; Employment; Governmental; Healthcare; Professional Malpractice; Personal Injury; Real Estate

**HOBBIES &
INTERESTS**

Outside the law, Judge Goodman enjoys hiking, travelling, and playing music. He sings, plays harmonica and guitar, and frequently performs with his band which offers up a mix of blues, country, and rock tunes.

LOCATIONS

Northern California, All of California