



Hon. James A. Mangione, Ret.



Alternative Dispute Resolution
Results Beyond DisputeSM

Judge Mangione brings more than 45 years of combined judicial and litigation experience to his role as a full-time neutral with Judicate West. He served for over a decade on the San Diego County Superior Court, presiding in both the Family Law and Civil Divisions, where he handled a wide range of matters including personal injury, employment, medical negligence, business litigation and complex family law cases. Appointed to the bench in 2015, Judge Mangione previously spent 34 years as a civil litigator representing both plaintiffs and defendants. His extensive trial background includes personal injury, employment, insurance, business and tort matters, giving him a well-rounded and practical understanding of the challenges faced by all sides in litigation. Attorneys value his ability to view disputes through a balanced lens shaped by decades of experience advocating in the courtroom. He is a Fellow of the prestigious American College of Trial Lawyers and a past president of the San Diego Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA). In 2025, he was honored as "Judge of the Year" by the San Diego Defense Lawyers. Since 2005, he has also served as an adjunct professor teaching trial skills at California Western School of Law. Judge Mangione is known for his respectful demeanor, thoughtful preparation, and clear communication. Widely regarded as kind, fair and measured, he brings a sharp and seasoned legal mind to every matter. He is committed to ensuring that parties feel heard and understood, approaching every case with patience, professionalism and a steady focus on resolution.

LEGAL CAREER & PRIOR EXPERIENCE

- Full-time Neutral, Judicate West (Present)
- Judge, San Diego County Superior Court (2015-2026); Independent Calendar Court, Family Law Division (2017-2021); Independent Calendar Court, Civil Division (2021-2026)
- Partner, Wingert Grebing Brubaker & Walshok LLP; Specialized in Personal Injury, Employment, and Business (2002-2015)
- Owner, Law Office of James A. Mangione; Specialized in Business/Torts (1999-2002)
- Attorney, Luna, Brownwood & Rice; Specialized in Insurance (1994-1999)
- Partner, Mitchell & Mangione (1981-1994)

EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- J.D., University of San Diego School of Law (1981)
- B.A., University of California, San Diego (1977)
- Adjunct Professor, California Western School of Law; Teaching Trial Skills (2005-Present)
- American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA) – San Diego Chapter President (2018); Member (1998-Present)
- Defenders Inc. President (2015); Board Member (2009-2015)

PRACTICE AREAS

All types of Personal Injury, including Sexual Assault; Commercial Litigation; Employment; Family Law; Insurance; Medical Negligence; Professional Malpractice

ACHIEVEMENTS & AWARDS

- Fellow, American College of Trial Lawyers (2015-Present)
- San Diego Defense Lawyers 'Judge of the Year' Award (2025)
- Listed in Best Lawyers in America (2003-2015)

HOBBIES & INTERESTS

In his free time, Judge Mangione enjoys reading, maintaining an active lifestyle, attending sporting events, and watching movies.

LOCATIONS

San Diego, All of California