



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 CAREER & PRIOR 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
- CPR Institute for Dispute Resolution National Panel of Distinguished Neutrals
- Southern California Mediation Association
- ABA, Orange County Bar Association and Oklahoma Bar ADR Sections
- University of Tulsa College of Law, Former Adjunct Professor of Law
- Council Oak American Inn of Court, Past President
- University of Oklahoma College of Law Association, Past President
- Federal Magistrate Judges Association, Former Director
- Judge Paul R. Michel Intellectual Property American Inn of Court, Founding Master

PRACTICE AREAS

All Types of Federal Court Cases; Antitrust; Class Action (including Wage/Hour); Complex Business/Commercial; Employment; Environmental; High Stakes Personal Injury; Insurance Matters; Intellectual Property; Professional Malpractice; Qui Tam; Securities; Toxic Torts

ACHIEVEMENTS & AWARDS

- Named in every issue of Best Lawyers in America from 2007 through 2025, 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).
- Best Lawyers In America's 2015 Orange County Mediation "Lawyer of the Year"
- Best Lawyers In America's 2014 Orange County Arbitration "Lawyer of the Year"
- Named as one of Southern California's "Super Lawyers" each year from 2007 through 2018, in the field of Alternative Dispute Resolution.

**HOBBIES &
INTERESTS**

In his spare time, Judge Wagner enjoys exploring the outdoors, hiking through the wilderness, and capturing nature's wonders through photography.

LOCATIONS

Orange County, Nationwide