



Hon. Judy H. Hersher, Ret.



Results Beyond DisputeSM

Judge Hersher has served as a mediator and arbitrator with Judicate West since 2021. Known for her creativity, even-tempered approach, and legal acumen, she is widely respected by attorneys and clients alike. Described as “a judge’s judge,” she combines emotional intelligence, broad legal knowledge, and compassion with tenacity, common sense, and integrity. Her practice spans contracts, complex civil matters, including personal injury, trade secrets, partnership and governance disputes, fraud, employment law, and civil rights. Before joining Judicate West, Judge Hersher served more than 20 years on the Sacramento County Superior Court, where she presided over hundreds of jury and court trials. She also contributed extensively to judicial education, legal scholarship, and statewide judicial committees, and co-authored the California Civil Jury Instruction Companion Handbook (Thomson Reuters/Westlaw). Recognized for her contributions to the law and the community, Judge Hersher has received numerous honors, including Trial Judge of the Year from both the Sacramento Region ABOTA (2017) and the Capital City Trial Lawyers Association (2015), as well as the Leonard M. Friedman Bar Association Award (2021). A frequent speaker and writer, she shares her insights at national and statewide conferences and has published widely on mediation, trial practice, and civil law.

LEGAL CAREER & PRIOR EXPERIENCE

- Full-time Neutral, Judicate West (2021-Present)
- Judge, Sacramento Superior Court (2000-2021); Served in civil, complex, law and motion, and writs
- Litigation Partner, Downey, Brand, Seymour & Rohwer LLP (1984-2000); Areas of law included contracts, eminent domain, real estate, personal injury and employment discrimination.

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 California, Davis Martin Luther King School of Law (1984)
- M.A. Fellowship, Georgetown University (1975)
- B.A. State University of New York - Albany, New York, English, Magna Cum Laude (1972)
- Sacramento County Grand Jury Advisor (Effective January 2020)
- California Judicial Council Advisory Committee on Civil Jury Instructions (2012-2021)
- California State Federal Judicial Council (2012-2021)
- Leonard M. Friedman Bar Association, Founder, and Judicial Chair (2009-2015)
- Judicial Master, Anthony M. Kennedy Inns of Court, Sacramento (2000-2013); Life Member (1991-Present)
- California Judicial Council Advisory Committee on Access and Fairness (2005–2007)
- Standing Committee on Gender, Race, Religious and Ethnic Fairness, United States Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit (1999–2000)
- Sacramento Women Lawyers, Member (1984-Present)

PRACTICE AREAS

Business/Contractual including Digital Asset and Cryptocurrency, Corporation, and Partnership Litigation; Civil Rights; Elder Abuse ; Employment ; Environmental; Intellectual Property; Medical Negligence; Personal Injury including Child Abuse/Sexual Assault; Professional Malpractice; Real Estate

ACHIEVEMENTS & AWARDS

- Recognition for Founding and Success, Leonard M. Friedman Bar Association (2021)
- Trial Judge of the Year, American Board of Trial Advocates, Sacramento Region

HOBBIES & INTERESTS

(2017)

- Trial Judge of the Year, Capital City Trial Lawyers Association (2015)
- Trial Judge of the Year, Sacramento County Bar Association (2012)
- Justice Frances Newell Carr Achievement Award for Advancing the Rights of Women and Children in the Law, Women Lawyers of Sacramento (2003)
- Humanitarian of the Year, Sacramento County Bar Association (2000)
- Bayard Rustin Award for Civil Rights, Creation, Sacramento Area Hate Crimes Task Force, Sacramento (1995)

Throughout the decades, Judge Hersher continues to dedicate her time as an instructor, panelist, and author on a myriad of topics in civil law and proceedings in trial for colleges, law schools, bar groups, courts, and judges. She is also involved in many charitable organizations within the local community. In her spare time, she enjoys hikes, travel, and landscape design.

LOCATIONS

Northern California, All of California