



Hon. Lon F. Hurwitz, Ret.



Results Beyond DisputeSM

Judge Hurwitz brings an illustrious legal career spanning over 45 years to Judicate West, marked by deep experience across a wide range of civil matters, including family law, complex litigation, and personal injury. Recognized for his judicial temperament, procedural expertise, and ability to navigate high-conflict cases with clarity and compassion, he is highly respected throughout the legal community for his thoughtful approach to even the most challenging disputes. He spent 17 years of his judicial tenure in the Family Law Division of the Orange County Superior Court, where he presided over virtually every type of family law matter. During that time Judge Hurwitz served as Supervising Judge of the Department and handled thousands of cases involving custody, financial disputes, domestic violence, dissolution, surrogacy, relocation "move away", Hague Convention, elder abuse, paternity, and parental termination, many of which are among the most complex issues in family law. His extensive experience with emotionally charged litigation has sharpened his skills in de-escalation, nuanced negotiation, and achieving durable resolution, qualities that define his style as a mediator and arbitrator. In the final four years of his judicial service, Judge Hurwitz was assigned to Unlimited Civil and then the Complex Civil Litigation Panel, where he managed a diverse docket of sophisticated civil cases including mass torts, wage and hour class actions, Private Attorneys General Act (PAGA) claims, business and commercial disputes, and other high-stakes matters. His ability to efficiently and equitably handle these large, multifaceted cases earned him the respect of practitioners across the legal spectrum. Prior to taking the bench, he built a successful practice for 25 years as a civil litigator, focused on construction defect and personal injury cases. Judge Hurwitz is known for his commitment to helping parties resolve disputes. His philosophy from the bench extends to the private sector, believing that all litigants must have a chance to be heard, be treated fairly and with respect, and be told the truth about their case.

LEGAL CAREER & PRIOR EXPERIENCE

- Full-time Neutral, Judicate West (2025-Present)
- Judge, Orange County Superior Court (2010–2025); Supervising Judge, Family Law Division (2015–2021); Assigned to Unlimited and Complex Civil (2021-2025)
- Commissioner, Orange County Superior Court (2004-2010)
- Mediator, Law Office of Lon F. Hurwitz (1999-2004)
- Partner, Law Office of Hurwitz & Humphreys (1979-1998); Specialized in construction defect and personal injury

EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- J.D., Southwestern University School of Law (1979)
- B.A., California State University, Long Beach (1976)
- ADR Certification, Pepperdine University School of Law Straus Institute (1999)
- Adjunct Professor, UCI School of Law (2013-2015)
- Member, Family Violence Council (2010-2015)
- Member, State Domestic Violence Task Force (2008-2010)
- Faculty Member, New Judges Orientation Program (CJER, Judicial Council of California (2008-2025)
- Member, Judicial Council of California by Appointment of Chief Justice Ron George (2008-2010)
- President, Robert A. Banyard American Inn of Court (2008)
- President, Orange County Trial Lawyers Association (1994); Member (1985-2010)
- Member of California Judges Association, American Judges Association, American Bar Association Committee for Veterans and the Courts, and Celtic, Hispanic, Jewish and Italian Bar Associations

PRACTICE AREAS

All types of Family Law Matters; Business/Commercial; Construction Defect; Employment; Insurance; Personal Injury; Professional Malpractice; Real Estate

ACHIEVEMENTS & AWARDS

- Orange County Trial Lawyers Association Judge of the Year Award (2024)
- American Board of Trial Advocates Judge of the Year Award (2023)
- Southwestern Law School Judge of the Year Award (2022)
- Orange County Jewish Bar Association Judge of the Year Award (2021)
- Veteran Advocate of the Year, Veterans Legal Institute (2019)
- Association of Certified Family Law Specialists Judge of the Year Award (2016)
- Orange County Bar Foundation Judge of the Year Award (2013)
- Celtic Bar Association of Orange County Judge of the Year Award (2013)
- American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers Judge of the Year Award (2012)
- Orange County Bar Association Family Law Section Judge of the Year Award (2012)
- Contributor, Judicial Council's Elder Abuse Judicial Handbook (2012)
- Legal Leadership Award, Whittier Law School Alumni Association (2010)
- Family Assessment Counseling & Education Services (FACES) Child Advocacy Award (2010)
- Creator, U.S's first Family Law Veterans' Domestic Violence Diversion Program (2009)

HOBBIES & INTERESTS

Judge Hurwitz enjoys traveling and exploring new places.

LOCATIONS

Orange County, All of California