



Hon. Margaret M. Morrow, Ret.



Results Beyond DisputeSM

Following 18 years of distinguished service on the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California bench and five years as President and CEO of Public Counsel, Judge Margaret M. Morrow has retired and is available as a mediator, arbitrator, and private judge, including special master and neutral appellate and trial assignments. During her judicial tenure, Judge Morrow developed the Central District Court's ADR program, overseeing it for 10 years. She also chaired the court's committee to secure funding for, design, and build a new federal courthouse, which opened in 2016. Before her appointment in 1998, Judge Morrow spent 24 years in private practice, handling a variety of civil trial and appellate litigation matters, mediating cases, and assisting clients with the arbitration process by filing motions to compel, vacate, and confirm. Throughout her career in practice and on the bench, she has been dedicated to finding creative ways to resolve disputes that often cannot be achieved through litigation. Dedicated to helping ensure access to justice for all and to minimizing the impact of wealth disparities between parties, Judge Morrow most recently served as President and CEO of Public Counsel Law Center, a nonprofit, public-interest law firm that serves low-income communities and individuals. Judge Morrow's commitment to the administration of justice and the legal community is evidenced by the various roles she played in the Los Angeles County Bar Association and the State Bar of California. She was the first woman president in the State Bar's history and devoted much of her time on the State Bar Board of Governors and in the leadership of the County Bar to improving our court system and increasing access to justice. One of her many accomplishments was the sponsorship of a successful ADR Pledge Campaign directed to lawyers, law firms, and businesses statewide. Judge Morrow also helped draft and lobby the original California court mediation statute and was one of the authors of a bench-bar guide on court-related ADR. With ADR experience at every level of her professional career, Judge Morrow has been praised by bar associations, lawyers, and clients for her class, fairness, intelligence, and integrity. One attorney commented: "Margaret is thoughtful, compassionate, extremely bright, and has dealt with lawsuits, disputes, and controversies from many angles, including as a talented and successful big law partner and a highly regarded federal judge. She applies rare insight and problem-solving skills to all aspects of her work and will be outstanding in assisting parties in resolving their cases."

LEGAL CAREER & PRIOR EXPERIENCE

- Neutral, Judicate West (2022-Present); Co-Chair of the Federal Practice Group (2023-Present)
- President/CEO, Public Counsel Law Center (2016-2021)
- Senior Judge of the United States District Court for the Central of California (2015-2016)
- Judge of the United States District Court for the Central of California: Developed and for 10 years oversaw the court's ADR program and chaired the court's committee to secure funding for, design, and build a new federal courthouse, which opened in 2016 (1998-2015)
- Partner, Arnold & Porter; General civil trial and appellate litigation, including a wide range of civil appeals, corporate and business disputes, and arbitration-related litigation, including motions to compel, vacate and confirm (1996-1998)
- Founding Partner, Quinn, Kully, & Morrow; General civil trial and appellate litigation, head of firm's appellate practice which included all types of civil appeals, arbitration, motions to compel, and mediation (1987-1996)
- Partner, Kadison, Pfaelzer, Woodard, Quinn & Rossi; General civil trial and appellate litigation with an emphasis on business and contract disputes, professional malpractice, insurance coverage, and product liability (1974-1987)

EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- J.D., Harvard Law School, cum laude (1971-1974)
- B.A., Bryn Mawr College, magna cum laude (1968-1971)
- Pepperdine/Strauss Institute, 'Mediating the Litigated Case' Training Course (2022)
- American Arbitration Association, Addressing the Challenges of Demanding Arbitrations; Part I, The Pre-Hearing Landscape; Part II, The Hearing Phase, The Award and Beyond (2022)
- State Bar of California, President: Launched a successful ADR Pledge Campaign directed to lawyers, law firms, and businesses throughout California and participated in preparing an ADR primer for California attorneys (1993-1994); Member, Board of Governors: Participated in drafting and lobbying California's original court mediation statute and helped author a bench-bar guide on court-related ADR (1990-1993)
- Los Angeles County Bar Association, President (1988-1989); Oversaw the adoption of Litigation Guidelines governing practice in LA Superior Court and the Central District of California; Barrister's Section, President (1982-1983); Member, Board of Trustees (1981-1989)
- Legal Services Corporation, Member, Rural Legal Task Force (2021-Present); Member, Leadership Council (2021-Present)
- American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Member, Access to Justice Implementation Advisory Committee (2021-Present)
- American Bar Association, Member, House of Delegates (1990-1992); Member, Standing Committee on Legal Aid and Indigent Defendants (1989-1991); Director, Young Lawyers Division (1984-1985)
- Association of Business Trial Lawyers, Member of the Board of Governors (1982-1984, 1998-2000) and Annual Seminar Chair (1984); Seminar Panelist (1991, 1992, 1994)
- Inner City Law Center, Homeless Resources Center Board Member (1991-1992); Constitutional Rights Foundation, Board Member (1995-1999); Public Counsel Board of Directors (1984-1986)

PRACTICE AREAS

Business Litigation; Civil Appeals; Civil Class Actions; Contract/Commercial; Consumer Class Actions; Employment; Insurance/Bad Faith; Personal Injury; Product Liability; Professional Malpractice; Securities Class Actions; Trademarks/Copyrights/Patents; Trade Secrets

ACHIEVEMENTS & AWARDS

- Beacon of Justice Award, Friends of the L.A. County Law Library (2022)
- Public Service Award, National Association of Women Lawyers (2019)
- Jim Robie Award for Professionalism and Civility, Los Angeles County Bar Association Litigation Section (2017)
- Impact Award, Southern California Chinese Lawyers Association (2016)
- Judge of the Year Award, Association of Southern California Defense Counsel (2011)
- Outstanding Jurist Award, Los Angeles County Bar Association (2010)
- Shattuck-Price Award, Los Angeles County Bar Association (1997)
- Bernard E. Witkin Amicus Curiae Award, Judicial Council of California (1995)
- Ernestine Stahlhut Award, Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles (1994)
- President's Award, California Association of Court-Appointed Special Advocates (1994)
- Pro Bono Advocacy Award, Western Center on Law and Poverty (1992)
- Maynard Toll Award, Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles (1990)
- Daniel O'Connell Award, Irish American Bar Association (1989)
- Certificate of Appreciation, Los Angeles County Commission for Women (1988)

HOBBIES & INTERESTS

Margaret actively volunteers in the community. In her free time, she enjoys watching sports, reading, and baking. She loves spending time with her dog and granddog and hopes to take up, after 20 plus years away, tennis and piano again soon!

LOCATIONS

Los Angeles, Nationwide