



Hon. Monica Bachner, Ret.



Results Beyond DisputeSM

Judge Bachner has garnered an outstanding reputation over the course of her impressive four-decade legal career. As a Los Angeles County Superior Court judge for over 20 years, she sat in criminal and civil departments, during which she presided over a civil unlimited independent calendar and trial court for the last seven years. Prior to her appointment, she was an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Central District of California, where she served in a variety of managerial positions, including as chief prosecutor for the U.S. Attorney's Orange County office. While serving as a bench officer, Judge Bachner was settlement-oriented and often assisted attorneys in resolving discovery disputes, facilitating their progress toward trial. Judge Bachner describes her approach to private dispute resolution, with the following, "My role as a neutral is to assist the parties in finding mutual agreement. It is important to understand the legal issues and the litigants' motivations while ensuring that all parties are heard. I will always be fair to all sides and consider the facts and the law presented."

LEGAL CAREER & PRIOR EXPERIENCE

- Full-time Neutral, Judicate West (2023-Present)
- Judge, Los Angeles County Superior Court (2002-2023). Most recently served as a Civil Trial Judge from 2016-2023, presiding over unlimited independent calendar and trial court; other roles include: Pro Tem, Second District Court of Appeal; Supervising Judge, North Valley District, and Criminal Trial Judge
- Assistant United States Attorney, U.S. Attorney's Office, Central District of California (1984-2002). Prosecuted white-collar cases including investment fraud, securities fraud, money laundering, and tax evasion; handled complex criminal cases from investigation and grand jury indictment through trial and appeal; briefed and argued cases before the Ninth Circuit; edited briefs of other AUSAs; coordinated education of experienced AUSAs in the Central District of California, and taught various classes to AUSAs and law enforcement
- Associate, Kadison, Pfaelzer, Woodard, Quinn & Rossi (1981-1984). Civil litigation associate handling commercial litigation and antitrust cases.

EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- J.D., Columbia Law School (1978-1981)
- B.A., Harvard, Radcliffe College (1974-1978)
- Mediating the Litigated Case, Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution - Pepperdine Law (2022)
- Judicial Education Seminars, Los Angeles County Superior Court, Chair (2016-2023); Member (2010-2023)

PRACTICE AREAS

Business Litigation; Construction Defect; Employment and Labor Law; Insurance; Lemon Law; Professional Malpractice; Real Estate

ACHIEVEMENTS & AWARDS

- Warren Knight Excellence in Alternative Dispute Resolution Award, Association of Media and Entertainment Counsel (AMEC), 2025
- Lecturer at USC School of Law (2002-2022)

HOBBIES & INTERESTS

Judge Bachner has a passion for education and giving back to others. She chaired the Los Angeles Superior Court's Education Committee for many years and has served as an instructor or panelist on various topics including anti-SLAPP motions, arbitrations and experts. She has also dedicated her time to teaching trial advocacy to law students and mentoring students. She spends her free time studying French (her mother's first language), traveling with family and friends, and reading books.

LOCATIONS

Los Angeles, Nationwide

