



Hon. Nita L. Stormes, Ret.



Results Beyond DisputeSM

Judge Stormes served over two decades as a Federal Magistrate Judge in the Southern District of California, including five years as a Presiding Magistrate Judge. During that time, she presided over thousands of civil cases as a settlement judge, handling virtually every type of civil case filed in federal court, including Intellectual Property (Patent, Trademark, and Copyright), Employment Discrimination, Civil Rights, Consumer Class Actions, Real Property, Whistleblower/Retaliation, commercial disputes, bad faith insurance, personal injury, wrongful death, medical malpractice, Antitrust, Admiralty, and ERISA. Prior to her appointment as a Federal Magistrate Judge, Judge Stormes served for 16 years as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in San Diego, including five years as Chief of the Civil Division. In her role as an Assistant U.S. Attorney, she handled medical malpractice suits and other tort litigation against the United States Government, as well as Employment Discrimination, government contract litigation, and civil rights litigation involving its agencies and employees. Drawing from her former judicial position, Judge Stormes brings a wealth of mediation experience to her role as a neutral at Judicate West. She has successfully worked to settle cases with a wide spectrum of parties ranging from major corporations to insurance representatives to injured victims. Her approach combines assertiveness in negotiation with compassionate listening, an even temperament, and a remarkable level of patience to guide the parties toward resolution. She finds immense satisfaction from resolving disputes and is relentless in her efforts to do so. Judge Stormes stated, "I love the challenge and the satisfaction that comes with dispute resolution. It is a great pleasure for me to join Judicate West as a private neutral so I can continue to help litigants settle their disputes. Too often disappointed litigants walk out of a courtroom not understanding why they lost a case. My goal is to prevent that outcome by providing certainty, satisfaction, and closure to all parties."

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

- Full-time Neutral, Judicate West (2023-Present)
- U.S. Magistrate Judge, Southern District of California (2000-2023); Presided over thousands of civil cases in every type of civil matter filed in federal court

EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- J.D., Duke University (1976-1979)
- B.A., Ohio Wesleyan University (1972-1976)

PRACTICE AREAS

Business/Commercial, Employment, Federal, Insurance, Intellectual Property, Professional Malpractice, Real Estate, Tort

ACHIEVEMENTS

- U.S. Department of Justice Director’s Award for Excellence in Management

INTERESTS

Outside of work, Judge Stormes enjoys spending time with family and friends, surfing, swimming, skiing and hiking in Mammoth, and reading.

LOCATIONS

San Diego, Southern California