



Sean M. Burke, Esq.



Results Beyond DisputeSM

Following a successful 37-year career litigating personal injury, product liability, and medical malpractice cases, Sean brings his negotiation, communication, and legal skills to his role as a neutral. He began his legal career with an insurance defense firm and later transitioned to the plaintiff side as a partner of Thielen and Burke until forming his own firm in 1998. As a litigator, he resolved over 500 cases for his clients, most involving mediation to reach a resolution. He also volunteered with the Los Angeles Superior Court's Alternative Dispute Resolution program and mediated well over 50 cases. Through his experiences, he has concluded that the mediation process is a much more efficient and much less costly (financially and emotionally) method for resolving disputes. He describes his approach to alternative dispute resolution stating, "I believe in listening to the parties to determine their ultimate goals and desires in the case and using creative techniques to assist them in reaching those goals. I firmly believe in the "process" of mediation and feel that every case is amenable to that process."

LEGAL CAREER & PRIOR EXPERIENCE

- Full-time Neutral, Judicate West (2023-Present)
- Founder, Burke Law, APC (1998-2023)
- Mediator, Los Angeles Superior Court ADR Panel (2004-2009)
- Partner, Thielen and Burke; Specialized in Medical Malpractice, Personal Injury, Product Liability, and Legal Malpractice for Plaintiff (1988-1998)
- Attorney, Law Offices of Joseph Thielen; Specialized in Medical Malpractice, Personal Injury, Product Liability, and Legal Malpractice for Plaintiff (1985-1988)
- Ellis, McGarry, and Laufenberg; Specialized in Insurance Defense (1979-1981)

EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- J.D., MBA, University of Southern California (1977-1981)
- B.A., Pre-Law, Magna Cum Laude, University of Southern California (1971-1976)
- Mediating the Litigated Case, Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution - Pepperdine (2004)
- American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA), Associate (Member Since 2009)
- ABOTA Foundation, Legacy – Patriot
- ABOTA, Orange County Chapter, National Board Representative
- Consumer Attorneys of California (CAOC), Member
- Consumer Attorneys Association of Los Angeles (CAALA), Member
- Orange County Trial Lawyers Association (OCTLA), Member
- American Association for Justice (AAJ), Member
- Orange County Bar Association, Member
- Los Angeles County Bar Association, Member
- Long Beach Bar Association, Member

PRACTICE AREAS

Elder Care Law; Medical Malpractice; Personal Injury including Wrongful Death; Product Liability

ACHIEVEMENTS & AWARDS

- Joseph D. McNeil Civility Award, ABOTA, Orange County Chapter (2020)
- Top Gun Trial Lawyer of the Year Award for Medical Malpractice, OCTLA (2005, 2014, 2019)
- Southern California Super Lawyers (2005-Present)
- Best Lawyers in America (1990-Present)

HOBBIES & INTERESTS

Sean enjoys photography, cycling-both road, and mountain, all water sports, skiing, and mountain hiking in the Sierras and Teton Mountains, as well as spending time with his wife and three adult children.

LOCATIONS

Orange County, All of California