



Hon. Steven R. Denton, Ret.



Results Beyond DisputeSM

Judge Denton was a full-time civil jury trial lawyer for 26 years prior to serving as a San Diego Superior Court Judge from 2001 until 2013. While his tenure on the bench, he served as an Independent Calendar Judge for both the Civil and Family Law Divisions and as the Assistant Supervising Judge of the Civil Division. As an Independent Calendar trial judge, he was responsible for managing a running caseload of up to 1000 civil cases of all types including complex litigation matters. He presided over law and motion, case management and trial of catastrophic personal injury and wrongful death cases, complex real estate litigation, class actions, business, and commercial disputes, medical and legal malpractice matters, employment and harassment cases, as well as insurance bad faith matters. He was known as a "lawyer's judge" and was highly regarded for his pragmatic, fair, and balanced courtroom management style. Since joining Judicate West, Judge Denton has handled numerous mediations, arbitrations, and discovery master assignments on cases involving complex insurance coverage, subrogation, legal malpractice, real estate, and virtually every type of civil matter from cyber-stalking to catastrophic death and injury. He is best known for his energetic and pragmatic approach to problem-solving as well as his tenacious drive to resolve difficult cases. Many attorneys comment that his perspectives as an experienced judge and litigator for over 40 years bring a valuable combination of perspective and judgment to the mediation process.

LEGAL CAREER & PRIOR EXPERIENCE

- Neutral, Judicate West (2013-Present)
- Judge, San Diego Superior Court (2001 - 2013)
- Civil Independent Calendar Judge, General and Complex Cases (2004-2013)
- Family Law Independent Calendar Judge (2001-2004)
- Partner, Ludecke, Denton, & Bunn (1978 - 2001)
- Associate Attorney, Ludecke and Andreos (1975 - 1978)

EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- JD, University of San Diego School of Law (1975)
- BA, University of California Santa Barbara, Environmental Biology (1972)
- Mediating the Litigated Case, Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution, Pepperdine University School of Law (2013)
- San Diego County Judges Association, President (2007-08)
- California Judges Association, Member (2001-13)
- ABOTA, SD Chapter President (2001), Board of Directors (1998-02), Member (1992 - Present)
- Cal-ABOTA, Board of Directors (2001)
- ABTL, Judicial Advisory Council (2009 to Present), Member (2007 to Present)
- San Diego County Bar Association, VP (1994), Board of Directors (1991-1994), Member (1975 to Present)
- San Diego Inn of Court, President (1994), Board of Directors (1991 - 1994)
- Consumer Attorneys of San Diego & California, President SD (1986), CA Board (1986-91, 95 & 97)
- Inns of Court: Clifford B. Wallace, President (2010-11) Founding Member 2005 - Present, William B Enright (2001-03), Oliver Wendell Holmes (2003-05)

PRACTICE AREAS

Aviation; Business/Commercial; Employment; Insurance Bad Faith; Personal Injury; Professional Malpractice; Real Estate

ACHIEVEMENTS & AWARDS

- Trial Lawyer Hall of Fame (2014) Consumer Attorneys of San Diego.
- David S. Casey Trial Lawyer of the Year (1991) Consumer Attorneys of San Diego.
- Distinguished Alumni of the Year (1995) University of San Diego School of Law.
- Outstanding Trial Lawyer Awards (1997, 1981, 1982, 1991, 1999, & 2001)

HOBBIES & INTERESTS

Consumer Attorneys of San Diego.

- Lifetime Accomplishment & Dedication Award (2013) San Diego County Bar Association and San Diego Family Law Bar Association.
- Outstanding Service Award (2005) North County Certified Family Law Specialists
- Outstanding Service Award for Special Events (2000) Consumer Attorneys of San Diego.
- Presidential Award of Merit: Establishing Excellence in Legal Education (1992) San Diego Trial Lawyers Association.
- Special Commendation: Leadership in the Protection of the Civil Justice System (1988) San Diego Trial Lawyers Association.

Judge Denton frequently enjoys international travel with his wife, who is an accomplished litigator, deep sea fishing, running, skiing, golf, and coordinating the activity, school, and athletic schedules for his two young adopted foster children, who are 15 & 16. Despite being a "weekend golfer," Judge Denton is lucky and has two "holes in one" and three "eagles" to his credit. He spent most of his youth overseas and went to high school in Berlin, Germany arriving in 1961 as the "Wall" was being built. He also enjoys spending his free time with his older daughter, who is a former Federal Prosecutor in Washington. D.C., now in private practice in San Diego, and a son who is a Microsoft software engineer team leader in Los Angeles.

LOCATIONS

San Diego, All of California