



# Justice William W. Bedsworth, R



Results Beyond Dispute<sup>SM</sup>

Justice Bedsworth joins Judicate West after 27 years of distinguished service on the California Fourth District Court of Appeal. As part of Judicate West's Appellate Practice Group, he focuses on private appellate consultation, providing sophisticated guidance grounded in his unparalleled judicial experience. His services include assessing the strengths and weaknesses of potential appeals, reviewing briefs, identifying appellate issues, and conducting practice oral arguments, as well as mediation on pending appeals. He is also instrumental in the continued development of Judicate West's private appellate panel program, giving practitioners greater insight, clarity, and strategic control throughout the appellate process. The longest-serving justice in the history of the Fourth District, Division 3, Justice Bedsworth wrote 220 published opinions and over 2000 unpublished ones, spanning the full spectrum of civil and criminal law. Before joining the appellate court, he served for a decade on the Orange County Superior Court. He began his career in the Orange County District Attorney's Office, where he served as a trial deputy, appellate attorney, and managing attorney overseeing the law and motion and appellate divisions. A revered figure in the legal community, Justice Bedsworth has received numerous honors, including the California Judicial Council's Distinguished Service Award. The California Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates named its only judicial award after him, and he was the first recipient of the William W. Bedsworth Judicial Civility Award in 2017, an enduring testament to his professionalism, fairness, and leadership.

## LEGAL CAREER & PRIOR EXPERIENCE

- Full-time Neutral, Judicate West (2025-Present)
- Associate Justice, California Fourth District Court of Appeal, Santa Ana (1997-2024)
- Judge, Orange County Superior Court (1987-1997)
- Appellate Attorney, Orange County District Attorney's Office (1977-1987)
- Trial Attorney, Orange County District Attorney's Office (1972-1977)

## EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- J.D., University of California, Berkeley School of Law (1968-1971)
- B.A., cum laude, Loyola Marymount University (1965-1968)
- Orange County Bar Association (1984-1986)
- Orange County Deputy District Attorneys Association (1979-1981)

## PRACTICE AREAS

Appellate Issues; Business/Commercial; Employment; Insurance; Real Estate; Personal Injury

## ACHIEVEMENTS & AWARDS

- Writer, Nationally Syndicated humor column, "A Criminal Waste of Space" (1981-Present); Best Newspaper Column in CA, The California Newspaper Publishers Association (2019)
- California Judicial Council's Distinguished Service Award (2025)
- Franklin G. West Award, Orange County Bar Association (2018)
- William W. Bedsworth Judicial Civility Award, First Recipient/Namesake, CAL-ABOTA (2017)
- David G. Sills Award for Appellate Excellence, Orange County Bar Association (2015)
- Judge of the Year, Celtic Bar Association (2012)
- First Leadership Award, Orange County Lavender Bar Association (2011)
- Judge of the Year, Hispanic Bar Association (1997)

## HOBBIES & INTERESTS

Justice Bedsworth is an avid sports fan. He played college baseball and spent 15 years as a National Hockey League goal judge. He proudly wears a Stanley Cup ring awarded to him in 2008 for officiating a series final.

**LOCATIONS**

Orange County, Nationwide