



HON. GREGORY O'BRIEN, JR.

Judge, Los Angeles Superior Court
(Retired)



After a distinguished 20-year judicial career, Judge O'Brien began a fulltime practice as a mediator, arbitrator, and discovery referee in 2005. His last assignment while on the Los Angeles Superior Court was to the Mandatory Settlement Conference Department where he assisted counsel in settling a wide variety of disputes and gained invaluable insight into the settlement process, allowing him to quickly address the necessary issues to achieve resolution. He is the 2005 recipient of ABOTA's "Civility Award", a reflection of his excellent personal demeanor, which combined with his extensive settlement skills and civil experience make him an ideal choice when selecting a neutral.

JUDICIAL EXPERIENCE

- 1987 – 2005 Los Angeles Superior Court, Judge
- 2004 – 2005 Assigned exclusively to mandatory settlement conferences
- 1995 – 2005 Central Civil Trials, Los Angeles
- 1994 Supervising Judge, East District
- 1985 – 1987 Citrus Municipal Court
- 1987 Presiding Judge, Citrus Court

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2004 – 2005 **Mandatory Settlement Department, Los Angeles Superior Court.**
Judge O'Brien was selected as a Settlement Judge based on his extensive judicial experience, intelligence and personable demeanor. In this capacity he settled hundreds of cases ranging from thousands to millions of dollars in a wide variety of practice areas achieving an impressive settlement rate and party satisfaction.
- 1978–1984 ***In-House Counsel, Southern California Edison Company.***
Represented Edison before the South Coast Air Quality Management District, California Public Utilities Commission, California Air Resources Board, California Coastal Zone Conservation Commission, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
- 1972–1978 ***Deputy, Los Angeles City Attorney's Office.***
Four years specializing in land use environmental matters, including dozens of eminent domain cases and writ proceedings; challenging CEQA compliance, planning and zoning decisions, and the issuance of subdivision maps; two years representing the Department of Water and Power in air quality and other environmental state and federal regulatory proceedings, primarily before the California Energy Commission and California Air Resources Board.

Tried and argued cases at every level of State and Federal Trial and Appellate Courts, except the U.S. Supreme Court.

PUBLICATIONS

Columnist

2000 – 2002 Los Angeles Daily Journal, “Bench Press” monthly column

Editor

1995 – 2000 *Gavel to Gavel*, the judicial newsletter of the Los Angeles Superior Court

1991 – 1995 *California Courts Commentary* (now, *The Bench*), quarterly news letter of the California Judges Association

Author

“Anatomy of a Trial” (book review), *The Bench* (Spring 2009)

“Bienvenidos, Jeuces”, *The Bench* (Fall 2007)

“Good Settlements Take Effort”, *CEB Civil Litigation Reporter* (April 2006)

“The Magistrates” (book review), *The Bench* (Winter 2006)

“Confessions of an Angry Judge,” *Judicature*, March 2004.

“Speech May Be Free and Talk Cheap, But Judges Can Pay a Heavy Price for Unguarded Expression,”
28 *Loyola Law Review* 815 (1995).

Lenin Lives (a novel) published by Stein & Day, 1984.

Judge O'Brien is a frequent panelist on the subject of mediation and judicial temperament at conferences of the California Judges Association, has taught settlement techniques for the Center for Judicial Education and Research, has participated in mock trial exercises for law firm summer associates and has spoken on the subjects of judicial ethics, mediation and arbitration before several major law firms.

AWARDS

2009 – Honorary Doctor of Laws, Whittier College

2005 – Recipient, “Civility Award,” Los Angeles Chapter of ABOTA

MEMBERSHIPS

2010 – Member, Finance Advisory Committee, City of Rancho Palos Verdes

2010 – Member, Editorial Board, *The Bench*

2009 – 2012 Retired Judge Member, Board of Directors, California Judges Association

2007 – 2010 Member, ADR Committee, State Bar of California

2007 – Member, ADR Committee, California Judges Association

President, Whittier Law School Leadership Council

President, Palos Verdes Sunset Ridge HOA

Member, Palos Verdes Peninsula Rotary Club

2007 – 2008 Chair, Retired Judges Committee of the California Judges Association

2008 Chair, Retired Judges Conference

2002 – 2003 President, California Judges Association

2000 – 2002 Board of Directors, California's Judges Association

1987 – 1988 President, West Covina Rotary Club

1979 – 1980 Vice Chair, West Covina Recreation and Parks Commission

1974 – 1976 Board of Directors, Los Angeles Junior Chamber of Commerce

EDUCATION

1972 J.D., Whittier Law School

1968 A.B., USC School of Journalism