



HON. JAMES LAMBDEN

*California Court of Appeal, Ret.
First District, Division Two*



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Justice James Lambden brings to his ADR practice more than four decades of experience as a trial lawyer, trial court judge and Associate Justice of the California Court of Appeal.

BUSINESS TRIAL LAWYER

During his 14 years as a trial lawyer he represented clients throughout the state in cases involving construction, commercial contracts, torts, secured transactions, employment, insurance and real estate. His clients ranged from wind farm start-ups to international corporations such as Merck and Co.

TRIAL JUDGE AND CIVIL PROCEDURE EXPERT

His 7 years as a trial judge included more than 4 years presiding over a master civil law and motion calendar averaging 25 to 30 hearings each day. During this assignment he also briefed the presiding judge weekly regarding the settlement prospects of the cases coming up for trial.

In his other civil assignments he managed the Fast Track calendar and successfully settled dozens of cases scheduled for jury trials; and he tried to verdict many others. He was named Civil Trial Judge of the Year by the Alameda/Contra Costa Trial Lawyers Association before being elevated to the Court of Appeal in 1996.

APPELLATE JUSTICE, AUTHOR AND EDUCATOR

Justice Lambden authored over 1,000 opinions during his 17 years on the First District Court of Appeal in San Francisco; and he joined in hundreds of other published opinions authored by his colleagues. More than 100 of his opinions resolved important civil issues; and several of those resulted in new law, either by subsequent legislation or as affirmed precedents.

Justice Lambden has been a national leader in developing strategies to improve access to justice. Since 1997 he has been first a founding member, then chairman and now an ex officio member of the California Commission on Access to Justice. He served on the Board of the National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness. For 9 years he chaired the Access and Fairness Advisory Committee of the California Judicial Council (the constitutional governing body of the California court system). And in 2013 he received the Benjamin Aranda Award in recognition of his life-long work to remove barriers to access to justice.

Throughout his career Justice Lambden has been an author and frequent lecturer on civil procedure and substantive civil law. He has taught on behalf of the California Judges' Association, the State Bar, CEB (Continuing Education of the Bar) and CJER (California Judicial

Education and Research). As an appellate justice he regularly lectured at the Bernard Witkin Judicial College and conducted orientations for new judges on procedural and substantive topics.

He co-authored California Civil Practice, "Procedure" Thomson-West; and he has taught legal writing and trial practice classes at several law schools for many years. However, he is reluctant to reveal in which year he composed a question for the California Bar Exam.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Fourteen years as a trial lawyer, Fitzgerald, Abbott & Beardsley
- Practiced nationwide in disputes involving insurance, healthcare, probate, construction, commercial contracts, torts, employment and real estate
- Mediator, arbitrator, referee, appellate consultant and *pro tempore* judge

JUDICIAL BACKGROUND

- Seven years as a trial judge, Superior Court of Alameda County
- Including four years presiding over the Law and Motion Master Calendar
- Named ACCTLA "Civil Trial Judge of the Year"
- Seventeen years on the First District Court of Appeal; author of over 1,000 appellate opinions

PROFESSIONAL TEACHING/EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Author and frequent lecturer on civil procedure and substantive law topics for the California Judges Association, the California State Bar, Local Bar Associations, CELA (California Employment Lawyers Association), CEB (Continuing Education of the Bar, UC Berkeley), and CJER (California Judicial Education and Research).
- Co-Author, California Civil Practice: Procedure, Westlaw
- Contributor, California Appellate Practice, Matthew Bender
- Witkin Lecturer, Bernard Witkin Judicial College, Berkeley
- State Bar of California Litigation Section programs, including: "Effective Summary Judgment Motion Practice: A Judicial Perspective"
- Co-author, "*Stop Shooting Down Tort Liability, It is Time to Resuscitate the Abnormally Dangerous Activity Doctrine Against Handgun Manufacturers.*" Stanford Law and Policy Review, Vol. 12:143 (2001)

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES/ASSOCIATIONS/AFFILIATIONS

- Board of Trustees, University of California Hastings College of the Law
- Sustaining Distinguished Fellow, International Academy of Mediators
- California Society of Healthcare Attorneys
- Board Member, California Dispute Resolution Council
- International Centre for Dispute Resolution (AAA)
- Board Member, Voluntary Legal Services Corporation (Access Alameda)
- Chairman, Access and Fairness Committee, 2003-2012 (Principal standing committee of

the Judicial Council)

- Chairman and Founding Member, California Commission on Access to Justice (California State Bar)
- Bar Association of San Francisco
- San Francisco Trial Lawyers Association
- Alameda/Contra Costa Trial Lawyers Association (ACCTLA)
- American Bar Association
- Association of Business Trial Lawyers (ABTL)
- Hastings Alumni Association; University of California Alumni Association
- Shriver Pilot Projects Committee (California State Bar)
- Board Member, National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness
- Member Board of Directors, California Judges Association
- Member Board of Directors, Alameda County Bar Association
- Executive Chairman, Alameda County Bar Association Foundation
- Board of Directors, Bay Area Center for Law & the Deaf (BACLAD)
- Founding Member, Deaf Counseling Advocacy & Referral Agency (DCARA)
- Founding Member, Tribal Court/State Court Forum

PROFESSIONAL HONORS AND AWARDS

- Honored by Resolution of the Alameda County Bar Foundation for Public Service
- Bench Bar Coalition “Jurist of the Year” Award for work with the Legislature to increase funding for legal services, 2007
- Opening Doors to Justice Award, One Justice, 2008
- Benjamin J. Aranda Access to Justice Award, 2013
- Bar Association of San Francisco, Barristers Choice Award, 2014

EDUCATION, SERVICE AND BAR ADMISSION

- United States Naval Reserve, 1968-1971
- University of California, Berkeley, B.A., Political Science, magna cum laude
- University of California College of the Law, San Francisco, J.D.
- Admitted to California Bar, December 18, 1975