



HON. GREGORY O'BRIEN, JR.
Judge, Los Angeles Superior Court
(Retired)



Since retiring from the Superior Court in 2005, Judge O'Brien has served as a neutral mediator in more than 600 cases, and has presided over 50 arbitrations and private trials and 20 discovery references.

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 - 1995 Supervising Judge, East District
1985 – 1987 Citrus Municipal Court
1987 Presiding Judge, Citrus Court

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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.

In-House Counsel, Southern California Edison Company

Judge O'Brien 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. He served as lead counsel in the certification proceedings for the Balsam Meadow Hydroelectric Pump-Storage Power Plant, as well as three related lawsuits filed in state court.

Deputy, Los Angeles City Attorney's Office

Four years specializing in land use environmental matters, including dozens of eminent domain cases and writ proceedings. He authored dozens of official City Attorney Opinions and tried cases involving CEQA compliance, planning and zoning decisions, and the issuance of subdivision maps. For two years he represented the Los Angeles 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 civil cases at every level of state and federal trial and appellate courts, except the United States Supreme Court.

OTHER

Prior to his legal career, Judge O'Brien served as congressional press secretary to the late Charles E. Wiggins (later appointed to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals). During law school, he was employed as the assistant manager of government relations for the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce. His principal assignment included writing scores of Chamber Board reports related to pending state and federal legislation, plus prominent ballot measures affecting business. After Board approval, these reports were distributed as pertinent to general media, some or all members of the legislature, and/or the California congressional delegation.

PUBLICATIONS

Judge O'Brien's numerous articles have been published in (alphabetically) the CEB Civil Litigation Reporter, Gavel to Gavel, Journal of the California Dental Association, Judicature, the Loyola Law Review, the Metropolitan News-Enterprise, National Review, The Bench, The Glendoran, the Los Angeles Daily Journal, the San Gabriel Valley Tribune and the San Pedro News-Pilot. Judge O'Brien served four years as editor of the CJA newsletter California Courts Commentary (now named The Bench), and five years as editor of the Los Angeles Superior Court judicial newsletter Gavel to Gavel.

LECTURER/PANELIST

Judge O'Brien has been a guest law school lecturer at Loyola Law School, Pepperdine University Law School and Whittier Law School. He has also served as a lecturer, moderator and/or panelist at continuing education programs of the California Judges Association, the California Center for Judicial Education and Research, the Los Angeles Superior Court, the Trial Practice Inn of Court of the Los Angeles County Bar Association, the East Valley Bar Association, the law firm of Snell and Wilmer, the Southern California Mediation Association and the USC Law School Alumni Association.

OTHER PUBLIC SERVICE

Judge O'Brien is a member and chair of the Civic Center Advisory Committee of the City of Rancho Palos Verdes. The committee is tasked with advising the City Council on the development of a new City Hall complex. He has previously served as a member and vice chair of the City's Finance Advisory Committee and as a member of the RDA Dissolution Oversight Board. He has also served an appointed three-year term on the ADR Committee of the California State Bar Association, and served for five years on the ADR Committee of the California Judges Association (CJA). He was CJA president 2002-03 and continues to serve the organization on various committees and as a conference speaker and panelist.

SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

Judge O'Brien is a member and past president of the Rotary Club of Palos Verdes Peninsula and a past president of the Rotary Club of West Covina. In 2016-17 Judge O'Brien served as District Governor of Rotary District 5280 (Greater Los Angeles). He is also a member of the Paul Harris Society and is a Major Donor to The Rotary Foundation.

AWARDS

1987 Alumnus of the Year, Whittier Law School
2005 Recipient, "Civility Award," Los Angeles Chapter of ABOTA
2009 Honorary Doctor of Laws, Whittier Law School

EDUCATION

1972 J.D., Whittier Law School
1968 B.A., USC School of Journalism