



HON. NATHAN D. MIHARA

Available for mediations, arbitrations, reference appointments, and appellate consultations



Hon. Nathan D. Mihara is a retired Associate Justice of the California Court of Appeal, Sixth Appellate District. After serving over three decades as a judicial officer, including 27 years for the Court of Appeal and 8 years for the Santa Clara County Superior and Municipal Courts, Justice Mihara joined ADR Services, Inc. to resolve disputes as a mediator, arbitrator, and referee.

Justice Mihara began his legal career as a civil lawyer in private practice. He then joined the California State Attorney General's office as a Deputy Attorney General, serving in the criminal division prosecuting appeals and writs. During this time, he handled numerous cases in the trial courts and hundreds of appeals which included two cases he successfully argued before the California Supreme Court. In 1985, Governor George Deukmejian appointed him to the Santa Clara County Municipal Court, where he served for three years before his elevation to the Superior Court in 1988.

As a Judge of the Santa Clara County Superior Court, Justice Mihara's assignments covered civil trials and settlement conferences, law and motion, felony trials, family law, juvenile law, and probate matters. In 1993, Justice Mihara was appointed by Governor Pete Wilson to be an Associate Justice on the California Court of Appeal, Sixth Appellate District. Over the course of his 27 years at the Court of Appeal, he has authored over 250 published opinions and reviewed thousands of civil and criminal appeals and extraordinary writ matters.

Justice Mihara is a member of the California Judges Association and served as President of the California Asian-Pacific American Judges Association from 2012-2013. He has co-chaired the Santa Clara County Bar Association's Appellate Section and has served as part of its Law Related Education Committee and Minority Access Committee. He was a Member of the Board of Directors of the Sentencing Alternatives Program from 1985 to 2021 and President of the Board for many years.

In addition, Justice Mihara is a frequent lecturer and panelist for many judicial education programs, bar association seminars, and law schools, including Hastings College of the Law, UC Davis King Hall Law School, UC Berkeley Law, Stanford Law School, and Santa Clara Law School. He has taught on issues of access and fairness in the legal profession and ethics in judicial administration. He has also made presentations to various local schools for Constitution Day and Read Across America.

Justice Mihara received his B.A. degree in Economics from the University of Washington and his Juris Doctorate from Hastings College of the Law. He was admitted to the California bar and to practice before the federal Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in 1976. He became a member of the bar of the United States Supreme Court in 1980.

He has been active in his community with Little League Baseball, the American Youth Soccer Association and his church. He is married and has one son.

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

- Employment
- Wage & Hour
- Real Estate
- Business
- Class Action
- Personal Injury
- Products Liability
- Family Law

JUDICIAL EXPERIENCE

CALIFORNIA COURT OF APPEAL, San Jose, CA

Associate Justice, Sixth Appellate District, 1993-2020

- Authored over 250 published opinions and reviewed thousands of civil and criminal appeals and extraordinary writ matters
- Served on the Appellate Courts Process Task Force, the Appellate Advisory Committee and its Legislative Subcommittee

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CLARA COUNTY, San Jose, CA

Judge of the Superior Court, 1988-1993

- Assignments included civil trials and settlement conferences, law and motion calendars, criminal pretrials and trials, family law, and juvenile and probate matters

MUNICIPAL COURT OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CLARA COUNTY, San Jose, CA

Judge of the Municipal Court, 1985-1988

- Presided over misdemeanor arraignments, pretrials, trials, law and motion, and civil trials and settlement conferences

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, CALIFORNIA, Deputy Attorney General, 1977-1985

CIVIL LAWYER IN PRIVATE PRACTICE, 1976-1977

EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA COLLEGE OF THE LAW, SAN FRANCISCO

J.D., 1975

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

B.A. in Economics, 1972

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Silicon Valley
- California Asian-Pacific American Judges Association: Former President 2012-2013
- California Judges Association
- Judicial Council of California: Chair, Appellate Indigent Defense Oversight Advisory Committee
- Santa Clara County Bar Association: Co-chair, Appellate Section; Member, Law Related Education Committee and Minority Access Committee
- Sentencing Alternatives Program: Member of the Board of Directors since 1985; President of the Board of Directors