



## *Honorable Thomas S. Hudspeth (Ret.)*

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<b>Law Firm</b>	Sterling Mediation Services
<b>Location</b>	Southern California
<b>Practice Areas</b>	All areas of the law, as both a judge and as a trial attorney. General Civil Litigation & Tort Law (Plaintiff/Defense) to include, but not limited to: Medical Malpractice, Personal Injury/Wrongful Death, Products Liability, Insurance Defense, Insurance Bad Faith, Family Law, Business, Corporate, Real Property Disputes, Construction, Contract, Employment/Labor, Environmental, Intellectual Property, Landlord/Tenant, Lemon Law, Unlawful Detainers, Estate Planning/Probate, Professional Malpractice and Criminal Matters (Felony/Misdemeanor)
<b>Education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Juris Doctorate, Southern California Law School (1980)</li></ul>
<b>Date Admitted to California State Bar</b>	May 1981
<b>First Year ADR Experience</b>	1981
<b>Professional Association Memberships</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Member, California Judges Association</li><li>• Member, State Bar of California</li><li>• Member, American Bar Association</li><li>• Member, San Bernardino County Bar Association</li><li>• Member, Riverside County Bar Association</li><li>• Co-Chairman, San Bernardino County Medical Society</li><li>• Member, Medical-Legal Committee</li><li>• Member, Association of Southern California Defense Counsel</li><li>• Committee to Confer with the California Medical Association</li><li>• Member, California Medical Association, Organ and Tissue Transplant Committee</li><li>• Member, Judicial Evaluation &amp; Nomination Committee</li><li>• Member, American Inns of Court</li></ul>

**Bar Membership(s)**

- State of California (1981)
- U.S. District Court, Central District of California
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of California
- U.S. Supreme Court

**Additional Information**Teaching Experience

Professor of Torts, California Southern Law School, Riverside, Calif. (1985-Present)

Judicial Experience

Thomas S. Hudspeth served for 14 years as a Superior Court Commissioner in Riverside County. During those 14 years as a judge, Commissioner Hudspeth was assigned to high-volume calendars, spanning all but three courthouses county-wide. He served the general public on thousands of civil and criminal cases. Commissioner Hudspeth sat on nearly every type of calendar before the courts, including six years in family law. Hudspeth retired from public service on Oct. 20, 2012. Since then, he has continued to practice alternative dispute resolution as a mediator/arbitrator through Sterling Mediation Services.

Litigation Experience

Prior to becoming a judicial bench officer, Commissioner Hudspeth spent nearly 18 years as a trial attorney, during which time he acquired a reputation as one of the most well-rounded and toughest trial attorneys in the state. With most of his trials conducted in the Southern California counties of Riverside, San Bernardino, Orange, San Diego and Los Angeles, Commissioner Hudspeth tried countless cases to conclusion. These included, but were not limited to: long-cause, multi-week, civil jury and court trials; complicated family law court trials; and felony and misdemeanor criminal defense actions. In addition to the Superior Court cases, Commissioner Hudspeth also tried to successful conclusion many State of California Administrative Law cases on behalf of healthcare providers with licensing issues.

Alternative Dispute Resolution Experience

Commissioner Hudspeth believes that ADR is the proven most efficient method of resolving civil and family law matters quickly. All parties benefit from the less-stressful environment of private mediation, as opposed to a full court trial. Commissioner Hudspeth has a unique and thorough understanding of the law. He has become one of the most widely-respected "neutrals" in Southern California. It has been said that he was "ADR before ADR was cool." Commissioner Hudspeth truly is a master at helping solve legal conundrums.

In May 2011, Commissioner Hudspeth and a few of his colleagues in the legal community were recognized by the State of California Court of Appeal, Fourth District, Division 2, on the 20th Anniversary of the Court's Settlement Conference Program for service as volunteer attorney mediators. The guest speaker for the Riverside County Bar Association's "Law Day" luncheon and recognition ceremony was the Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court, the Honorable Tani Gorre Cantil-Sakauye.

## Additional Information

Also, in 2002, Commissioner Hudspeth was among several colleagues who shared in the honor of the Ralph N. Kleps Award for his work with the California appellate mediation program.

Since 1981, Commissioner Hudspeth has practiced ADR in a variety of capacities, including: arbitrator, mediator and Judge Pro Tem (he has heard countless mandatory settlement conferences by appointment of the Superior Courts in both Riverside and San Bernardino counties and the State of California Court of Appeal, Fourth District); volunteer attorney mediator for the State of California Court of Appeal, Fourth District, Division 2, settlement conference program (starting from its inception in 1991); Judge Pro Tem for San Bernardino County Superior Court; and Administrative Law Judge Pro Tem for the State of California.

### Extra Curricular

Commissioner Hudspeth has been a guest lecturer and associate professor at such institutions as University of California, Davis, School of Medicine; Loma Linda University Medical Center; and the Loma Linda University, School of Dentistry. He has lectured on such topics as "Law and Medicine," "Informed Consent—HIV Virus" and "Dentistry and the Law."

Commissioner Hudspeth has had the good fortune of coaching some of the brightest young legal hopefuls in the "mock trial" programs at various high schools in San Bernardino, Riverside and Palm Springs. He has served as attorney coach, and as the judge presiding over a mock trial competition, taking teams to the state championship level.

### Continuing Education

Since 1981, Commissioner Hudspeth has regularly attended continuing education courses according to the guidelines set forth by the State Bar of California. Commissioner Hudspeth attended Judicial Orientation and the Bernard E. Witkin Judicial College in 1999, with continuing judicial studies annually thereafter in the areas of criminal, family law and judicial ethics.

### Military Service

Commissioner Hudspeth served in the U.S. Army between the years 1969 and 1975. He received an "Honorable Discharge" in 1975 with the rank of Sergeant. He is a decorated Combat Veteran, who served one and a half tours in the Vietnam War.

In October 2009, he traveled to Washington D.C. to join his comrades from A-Troop, 1st Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, to receive the highest honor that can be bestowed upon a military unit, the Presidential Unit Citation for Extraordinary Heroism. The U.S. President spoke to the Alpha Troop heroes in a ceremony at the White House Rose Garden, which was followed by the pinning ceremony held at the Pentagon.

During his combat tours in Vietnam, Commissioner Hudspeth received many other commendations. Some of these included: a National Defense Service Medal, a Vietnam Service Medal, a Vietnam Campaign Medal, an Army Commendation Medal w/OLC, a Combat Infantryman Badge and a "Purple Heart."