



Biographical Information

Hon. Peter J. Meeka, Ret. **Superior Court Judge**

AREAS OF PRACTICE:

Commercial Contracts ♦ General Business ♦ Discovery Reference ♦ Elder Care ♦ Fee Dispute ♦ Health Care ♦ Homeowners' Association ♦ Insurance Coverage ♦ Bad Faith ♦ Legal Malpractice ♦ Medical Malpractice ♦ Personal Injury ♦ Products Liability ♦ Real Estate ♦ Toxic Mold ♦ Wage & Hour

Judge Meeka served as a judge for 22 years, first appointed in 1992 to the Rio Hondo Municipal Court and then elevated to the Los Angeles County Superior Court in 2000 by unification.

He was assigned to the East District, Pomona South Court, Dept O in 2000, handling an unlimited jurisdiction civil court, commonly referred to as an I.C. Court or Independent Calendar Court.

During the 13 years in Pomona, he handled hundreds of trials, both jury and bench. Trials included causes of action for personal injury (auto, premises liability, and product liability), burn cases, wrongful death, catastrophic injury, medical malpractice, intentional tort, elder abuse cases, probate litigation, professional negligence, employment termination, fraud, defamation, unlawful detainer, real estate cases, breach of contract and trade mark infringement, among others.

His common practice at the conclusion of a court trial was to personally prepare a detailed statement of decision, rather than simply to assign it to the prevailing party to prepare.

In his 13 years in Pomona he took every settlement course he could attend, including the CJER/Pepperdine School of Law course on mediation to enhance his mediation skills.

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Pomona was unique in that it kept statistics on the results of jury verdicts and Judge Meeka personally kept track of all verdicts in the East District. This made him uniquely knowledgeable about the value of a case.

Judge Meeka's successful settlement skills kept his inventory of active cases at the lowest in the East District, year after year. It's not surprising in 2012 when the Los Angeles County Superior Court laid off 350 employees and shut down

56 courtrooms that Judge Meeka volunteered to shut his courtroom down because of his settlement talents. He continued on into 2013 with his settlement court.

California courts are suffering the worst financial crisis in our history. The argument that the courts are the third branch of government and must be funded fell on deaf ears. That is the reality of the situation. We must be creative and at IVAMS we can help.

Judge Meeka's professional affiliations are:

- ◆ State Bar of California 1977-1992
- ◆ Legal Services Program of Pasadena, Pomona Valley, San Gabriel Valley, on the Board of Directors, 1991-1992
- ◆ CJER Domestic Violence Planning Committee 1995-2000
- ◆ Presiding Judges Association of Los Angeles County 1992-2000

Judge Meeka graduated from California State University, Fullerton with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in 1993 and from the University of La Verne College of Law with a Juris Doctor degree in 1977.