



Biographical Information

Hon. Rocky L. Crabb, Ret.
Superior Court Commissioner

Areas of Law Practice:

Rocky L. Crabb started his law practice in 1980 and practiced for 25 years before being elected commissioner by the Judges of the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, in 2005.

In private practice he represented individuals and small businesses, handling wrongful death, personal injury, products liability, Uniform Trade Secret Act cases, business, real estate, and contract litigation. He represented those clients at the trial and appellate levels, in both the state and federal courts of California.

Judicial Experience:

In 2005, Commissioner Crabb was initially assigned to a small claims appeal and traffic court.

In 2006 he was assigned to preside in Department D of the East District of Los Angeles County, handling family law, domestic violence and civil harassment cases. For 12 years he presided over all aspects of family law including dissolution of marriage, paternity, nullity, child custody/visitation, child/spousal support, asset and debt characterization and disposition, business evaluations, fiduciary duties, and contempt proceedings. In this family law assignment, the protection of the best interests of minor children and victims of domestic violence were the first priority.

In January 2018, he was privileged to accept a criminal trial court assignment in Department S of the East District, where he remained until his retirement from the bench in March, 2019.

Education:

Commissioner Crabb obtained his undergraduate degree in 1977 from the University of California, Santa Barbara, and his JD law degree from Loyola Law School, Los Angeles in 1980. He was admitted to the State Bar of California that same year.

As a Superior Court Commissioner, he has benefitted from ongoing extensive mandatory and voluntary continuing judicial education, both as a faculty teacher and as a judicial student. This ongoing judicial education includes procedural, substantive, and evidentiary law, as well as settlement, mediation, and dispute resolution techniques.

Commendations:

Upon his recent retirement from the bench, Commissioner Crabb was honored and humbled in 2019 to receive written commendation from the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, for his “tireless work ethic, impeccable preparation, collegiality, dedication, temperance and humility” that “epitomize all that is good with those called to a life of public service.” He was also noted to have “served on the bench with distinction, dedication and true commitment.”

Commissioner Crabb appreciated judicial profiles in the Los Angeles Daily Journal legal newspaper in 2006 and 2015, wherein many attorneys practicing before him are quoted as describing Commissioner Crabb as: “thoughtful,” “even-tempered,” “patient,” “courteous,” “respectful,” “prepared,” and “professional.” “He knows the law” and “he makes fair rulings.”

Personal:

Born in 1955 in the Inland Empire, he is a native Southern Californian. He attended Riverside Community College before transferring to UCSB for his BA degree, and starting at age 18, worked for 5 years as a steel worker at the Kaiser Steel Mill in Fontana to put himself through college.

He and his wonderful wife of 35 years have two great adult children who are successful in their chosen professions.

Outside Activities:

Commissioner Crabb has been honored to serve as a judge for the local and state finals of the Constitutional Rights Foundation Mock Trial Program over several years.

He enjoys hiking, biking, fly-fishing, the outdoors, and travel. He and his wife were privileged to travel with a group of California judges in 2017 to Australia to visit and learn from judges, magistrates, and a justice of the High Court of Australia.