



Biographical Information

Hon. Michael Sage Hider, Ret. Superior Court Judge

As a Superior Court Judge in a small County, as he is fond of saying, "I literally did *everything* a Superior Court Judge can do in both the civil and criminal arenas. You name it, I've done it." That includes everything from traffic matters, family law matters, complex personal injury cases, especially real estate and business matters, juvenile dependency and delinquency cases, probate and estate planning, contract litigation, partnership dissolutions, employment disputes, medical malpractice, legal malpractice, construction defects, as well as all level criminal matters including murder cases with special circumstances.

Judge Hider graduated from the University of Cincinnati with a B.S in Metallurgical Engineering. Having been in R.O.T.C., he immediately entered the United States Air Force as a Second Lieutenant. His first assignment was to Eglin Air Force Base, FL., the Air Proving Ground Center, where he was placed in charge of Hypervelocity Impact Studies. He was then selected to join an elite group of engineers who were summoned to Kirkland Air Force Base, NM, the Air Force Special Weapons Center, and the Nevada Test Site where he participated in sophisticated underground nuclear testing. He was honorably discharged from the Air Force with the rank of Captain.

Upon graduation, Judge Hider, Eileen, and their four children moved to Merced. He was a trial attorney for eleven years. During that time period he formed the very successful Quigley and Hider Law Firm and served as President of the Merced County Bar Association.

One of his most notable cases was that of Steven Stayner. Steven was kidnapped when he was seven-years-old and did not escape the clutches of his kidnaper until he was fifteen-years-old. During those agonizing eight years, Steven's mother never gave up hope and never doubted that her son would return home one day. The Stayner family retained attorney Hider to represent them in dealing with the public and in negotiating a film contract for the movie, "My First Name Is Steven." During these proceedings, he appeared with the Stayner family on "Good Morning America."

After eleven years as a trial attorney, Judge Hider ran for and *was* elected to the Merced County Superior Court Bench. Early in Judge Hider's judicial career it became obvious that one of his strongest fortes is conflict resolution. Because of his strong science background and his prowess for settling cases, he became the "Go to Judge" for settling difficult cases. He was sought after by most law firms in Merced County. Upon settling an extremely complex case involving twenty law firms and a trial time estimate of three to four months, which would have severely strapped the resources of the Merced County Bench, he was publically recognized by an open letter from the Merced County Board of Supervisors praising his settlement talent.

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In 2010, Judge Hider was selected as "Judicial Officer of the Year" by the Southwest Riverside County Bar Association.

Throughout all these assignments, Judge Hider's settlement skills did not go unnoticed. All who are familiar with his skills agree he has a unique methodology for settling cases. In August, 2012, Presiding Judge Sherrill Ellsworth asked Judge Hider to become the Mandatory Settlement Conference Judge for cases in the Riverside County Historic Courthouse, a position he held with great success. After almost fourteen years as an assigned judge on the Riverside County Superior Court Bench, he retired in March, 2015 when he joined IVAMS.

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