

Stephen L. Hewitt, Esq.



Areas of Expertise

Health care, professional & products liability, employment law & sexual abuse, sports & leisure, and administrative claims

In his new role as a private mediator and arbitrator, Stephen Hewitt brings 38 years of trial experience in a variety of areas on both sides of the bar, along with 20 years of dispute resolution skills gained while serving as a neutral, settlement conference officer, mediator and arbitrator in several Los Angeles and Orange County programs. His fierce professional independence, career-long penchant for tackling complicated and difficult cases, and commitment to maintaining an unbiased understanding of both sides of a conflict make him naturally suited for the challenges of dispute resolution.

Mr. Hewitt's philosophy and outlook about conflict resolution have been fundamentally shaped by his role as senior partner in the litigation firm he founded three decades ago and having tried more than 60 jury trials to verdict. He is licensed to practice law in California and Hawaii. In addition to regularly litigating cases in those jurisdictions, he has handled a variety of cases *pro hoc vice* in states west of the Mississippi, as well as matters in foreign countries such as Mexico, Guam and Samoa with the assistance of local counsel. He holds advocate status as a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates and other recognized professional associations.

As a trial lawyer, Mr. Hewitt has focused on complex litigation with emphasis on health care, professional & products liability, employment law & sexual abuse, sports & leisure, and administrative claims. He has published nationally and lectured in numerous fields and regularly gives certified continuing education programs to different groups around the United States. He has particular expertise in recreation and entertainment, having represented professional football teams, scuba diving and motorsports organizations, racing venues, and promoters, among many others. His innate tenacity and drive to excel as a trial lawyer and mediator, particularly in these specialized areas, are mirrored by Mr. Hewitt's personal pursuits, which have included competitive running, cycling and swimming, professional motorcycle road racing, advanced scuba diving, and rigorous backpacking travels throughout the High Sierras. This unique combination of professional and personal achievements, combined with his natural skills as a mediator, makes him an excellent choice for dispute resolution.

Legal Experience

Hewitt & Raphael (1989 to Present)

- Founding/Managing Partner
- Lead Trial Counsel
- Member of the State Bar of California (1982)
- Member of the State Bar of Hawaii (1999)

Court Admissions

- United States District Court for the Northern, Central, Eastern and Southern Districts of California
- United States District for the District of Hawaii
- United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit
- United States Supreme Court

Education

- University of California at Santa Barbara, Bachelor of Arts (1978)
- California Western School of Law, Juris Doctor (1981)
- Pepperdine University Mediator Program (2019)

Areas of Expertise

- Healthcare (Medical Malpractice, Managed Care)
- Elder Law (Long Term Care, Elder/Financial Abuse)
- Administrative Law (Professional & Environmental)
- Personal Injury (Premises Liability, Auto, Wrongful Death)
- Professional Liability (E&O, A&E, Brokers, Accountants, Lawyers)
- Products Liability (Medical Products, Underwater Products, Manufacturing, Vehicles)
- Recreation (Scuba Diving, Motorsports, Competitive Events)
- Entertainment Liability (Concerts, Amusement Parks, Sporting Events)
- Employment Practices (Termination, Discrimination)
- Sexual/Child Abuse
- Insurance Law
- Business & General Counsel

Representative Experiences

- Advocate Member Rank - American Board of Trial Advocates
- AV Preeminent Rating - Martindale Hubbell
- Super Lawyers
- Member of Southern California Mediation Association
- Member of FORUM - Arbitration, Mediation, International Association
- Served as Neutral, Settlement Officer and Mediator for Los Angeles and Orange County Superior Court Programs
- Orange County Superior Court Judge Pro Tem
- Los Angeles County and Orange County Superior Court Arbitrator
- Los Angeles County Superior Court Probate Volunteer Program
- Member of Southern California Association for Healthcare Risk Management (SCAHRM)
- Member of National Association of Underwater Instructors (NAUI)
- Member of Professional Association of Dive Instructors (PADI)
- Member of Dive Equipment Manufacturers Association of America (DEMA)
- Member of American Motorcyclists Association (AMA)
- Approved Multistate Continuing Legal Educator - Insurance
- Periodically Approved Continuing Legal Educator - Attorneys - California
- Author of Sport and Leisure Waiver & Release and Assumption of the Risk Law, 6th Edition
- Lectures/Presentations