



Honorable David B. Finkel (Ret.)

T: 310.461.1520
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EDUCATION:

- 1959 J.D., University of Southern California Law School, Los Angeles, California
- 1951 B.A., University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois

JUDICIAL EXPERIENCE:

- (August 1994-February 2002) Judge, Unified Santa Monica Superior and Municipal Court
- (January 2000-February 2002) Judge, Los Angeles Superior Court
- (January 1991-January 2000) Judge, Santa Monica Municipal Court

JUDICIAL ASSIGNMENTS:

- CIVIL JURY AND COURT TRIALS, West District, Los Angeles Superior Court, 1993-2002 (Santa Monica 1993-2000; West Los Angeles, 2001-2002)
- CRIMINAL JURY AND COURT TRIALS, Santa Monica, January 1991-December 1992
- CIVIL TRIAL SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE COURT, Santa Monica, January 1997-December 1999
- PRE-TRIAL PROCEEDINGS including Law and Motion, Ex Parte Applications, Status Conferences, Pre-Trial Conferences and Monitoring of Case Management Orders, West District, 1993-February 2002.

ADR EXPERIENCE:

- Arbitrations and Mediations, West District, January 1993-February 2002
- Private Judge, Arbitrator, Mediator, Discover Referee, and Settlement Conference Officer, 2002-Present
- Both before and since Judge Finkel ran the Santa Monica Settlement Conference Court, he conducted weekly settlement conferences for other Santa Monica judges by reference.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE:

Highly experienced in civil litigation, both as a litigator for thirty years and as a judge for eleven years, in the areas of Product and Design Defects; Professional Negligence; Admiralty (Jones Act and Unseaworthiness tort litigation, Libel in Rem, Maintenance and Cure); Labor Law and Employment Relations (public and private); Personal Injury; Indemnity; Construction Defects; Condominium Contract and Tort Disputes involving CC&Rs and the Davis-Sterling Common Interest Development Act; Contract Disputes; Conflicts of Interest (choice of forum disputes)

JUDICIAL AND NON-JUDICIAL TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

Faculty, Center for Judicial Education and Research (CJER), 1994-Present, teaching in fields of Judicial Ethics, Judicial Fairness, Alternative Dispute Resolution and Alcohol and Drug Court Programs.

Ethics seminars and classes for college and high school students, at Santa Monica College and Santa Monica High School

NON-JUDICIAL ELECTIVE OFFICES HELD:

- Member, Santa Monica City Council, 1986-1990
- Mayor Pro Tempore, City of Santa Monica, 1988-1990

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS/AFFILIATIONS:

Present or former member of various judicial committees, including CJER Education Committee on Judicial Fairness; Los Angeles Superior Court Access and Fairness Committee; California Judges Association Ethics Committee.

PERSONAL:

Married 37 years to Bruria Finkel, artist. Four children and three grandchildren, all born, and raised and educated in the primary and secondary schools of Santa Monica, and presently living, studying, teaching, and working in Santa Monica, Culver City and Los Angeles.