



Hon. Glen M. Reiser (Ret.)

Case Manager

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General Biography

Hon. Glen M. Reiser (Ret.) has vast experience adjudicating and resolving thousands of complex commercial, real property/environmental, trust and family law disputes as a respected trial judge and litigator. Judge Reiser spent more than 20 years on the Ventura County Superior Court, serving as both supervising probate judge and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) judge for more than a decade. Prior to his appointment to the bench, he litigated hundreds of civil cases to successful conclusion in trial and appellate courts throughout California.

Judge Reiser regularly teaches California judges trust and probate orientation, conservatorships and advanced courses through the Judicial Council of California's Center for Judicial Education and Research (CJER).

Judge Reiser is known for using his thoroughness, intellect, attention to detail and breadth of knowledge to develop creative solutions to disputes of all types.

ADR Experience and Qualifications

- More than a decade of exclusive assignment to trust and estate matters on the bench
- More than a decade serving as the only assigned CEQA judge in Ventura County, following years of land use experience as a private attorney
- Handled large-scale civil and appellate litigation, including environmental and real property, land use, water, complex banking and commercial litigation, real property secured transactions, mass toxic torts, trust litigation, insurance coverage and contract law as a litigator

Representative Matters

- Actively settled the contested probate estate of an iconic actor whose will bequeathed his one-half share of the community property to various charities; worked out the disposition of the Academy Award decedent had refused to claim during his lifetime in favor of the surviving spouse

- Managed through settlement the contested trust estate of a nationally prominent burn physician whose trust amendments had become increasingly less generous to his two children
- Actively settled the contested trust estate of a noted attorney who remarried several months before his death between the new spouse and his two young daughters
- Established and managed for a number of years the contested conservatorship of a young actress dealing with serious personal challenges
- Adjudicated to final resolution the consolidated 2017 environmental cases brought by cities and residents against the City of Los Angeles involving on-site and off-site modernization plans at Los Angeles International Airport
- Adjudicated subsurface and surface water hydrology issues between litigating water districts over water banking in the San Joaquin Valley
- Resolved multiple matters over the course of years involving allocation of water between appropriative rights holders along the Kern River
- Rendered environmental decisions involving coastal residential and industrial development, including climate change and sea level rise
- Managed and adjudicated a lengthy inverse condemnation case where homeowners' yards cascaded down a bluff due to flood control improvements
- Tried and managed through verdict a major design defect case against an automobile manufacturer brought by a physician whose legs were severed after his vehicle hydroplaned and crashed
- Managed the lengthy jury trial brought against a litany of asbestos manufacturers by a man who suffered and ultimately died of mesothelioma
- Tried and managed through verdict the wrongful death case of a woman killed in a rear-end collision along the Pacific Coast Highway
- Rendered the initiating decision allowing child support to become an exception in California to trustee discretion under a spendthrift trust (*Ventura County Dept. of Child Support Services v. Brown* (2004) 117 Cal.App.4th 144)
- Clarified the trial court's inherent power to order an accounting in trust disputes (*Christie v. Kimball* (2012) 202 Cal.App.4th 1407)
- Rendered the initiating decision permitting "clawback" of trust assets where necessary to subsidize proper trust administration (*Kasperbauer v. Fairfield* (2009) 171 Cal.App.4th 229)
- Compelled surcharge of a trustee who had placed his own financial interests ahead of the interests of a settlor with cognitive challenges (*Conservatorship of Moore* (2015) 240 Cal.App.4th 1101)
- Clarified the most recent legislation where a contested trust amendment incorporated the "no contest" clause of a prior instrument solely by reference (*Aviles v. Swearingen* (2017) 16 Cal.App.5th 985)
- As an attorney, successfully enforced a "no contest" clause through the California Supreme Court, where settlor's fifth wife received a cornucopia of assets by electing not to litigate (*Burch v. George* (1994) 7 Cal.4th 246)
- As an attorney serving as lead counsel in a mass toxic tort case, successfully drafted and advanced the first *Cottle* motion, allowing procedural creativity in complex civil cases (*Cottle v. Superior Court* (1992) 3 Cal.App.4th 1367)

Honors, Memberships, and Professional Activities

- Judge of the Year, Ventura County Trial Lawyers Association, 2016
- Frequent lecturer in a wide variety of civil litigation and ADR topics, including CEQA, trusts, probate, conservatorships, family law and case management
- Member, Probate Law Curriculum Committee, Center for Judicial Education and Research, Judicial Council of California, 2015–2019
- Member, Governing Committee, Center for Judicial Education and Research, Judicial Council of California, 2015-2019
- Member, Emerging Technologies Ad Hoc Working Group, Governing Committee of the Center for Judicial Education and Research, Judicial Council of California, 2015–2016
- Vice-Chair, Court Technology Advisory Committee; Chair, Projects Subcommittee; Judicial Council of California; 2012–2014

- Member, Technology Planning Task Force, Judicial Council Technology Committee, 2012–2014
- Chairman, Technology Committee, Ventura County Superior Court, 2005–2016
- Member, Court Technology Advisory Committee, Judicial Council of California, Administrative Office of the Courts, 2005–2012
- Member; Technology Services Subcommittee, Outreach Subcommittee and Appellate e-Filing Subcommittee; Judicial Council of California; Administrative Office of the Courts; 2005–2012
- Co-Sponsor, Judicial Branch Technology Initiatives Working Group, “Statewide Technology Vision,” Judicial Council Technology Committee, 2012–2013
- Member, AB 2073 Mandatory E-Filing Working Group, Administrative Office of the Courts, 2012–2013
- Member; Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on Court Efficiencies, Cost Savings and New Revenue; Administrative Office of the Courts, 2012–2014
- Chairman, California Case Management System (CCMS) Operational Advisory Committee, Administrative Office of the Courts, 2010–2012
- Member; Judicial Review/Testing Group; California Case System Software; “V4” Criminal, Juvenile, Family Applications; 2007–2011
- Member; Judicial Review/Testing Group; California Case System Software; “V3” Civil, Probate, Small Claims Applications; 2004–2006

Background and Education

- Judge, Ventura County Superior Court, 1998–2019
 - 2010–2019: Probate, conservatorships, trusts, guardianships, CEQA
 - 2008–2010: Civil trials and motions, CEQA
 - 2004–2008: Criminal trials, arraignments, motions, preliminary hearings
 - 2002–2004: Probate, conservatorships, trusts, guardianships, family law
 - 2000–2002: Criminal trials, arraignments, motions, preliminary hearings (Superior Court Appellate Division)
 - 1998–2000: Civil trials and motions
- Of Counsel; Ferguson, Case, Orr, Paterson & Cunningham, LLP; 1997–1998
- Principal, Law Office of Glen M. Reiser, 1992–1997
- Partner; Nordman, Cormany, Hair & Compton; 1978–1992
- Graduate, National Institute for Trial Advocacy, National Session, 1981
- J.D., University of California, Los Angeles, 1978
- B.A., High Honors, University of California, Santa Barbara, 1975
- United States Military Academy, 1971–1972

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