

Occupation:

Attorney-at-Law (1974 – current)

College Degrees:

University of California at Berkeley, B.S. (1967)
University of California at Berkeley, M.B.A. (1968)
UC Hastings College of the Law, J.D. (1974)

Military Service:

USMC Officer – Active Duty (1969 – 1971)
Vietnam Veteran (1970 – 1971)
USMC Reserves (1971 – 1991; retiring as a Major)
Operation Desert Shield Veteran (1990 -1991)
Qualified as Trial / Defense Counsel by Judge Advocate General of the Navy (1986)

Employment History:

Spridgen, Barrett, Achor, Luckhardt, Anderson & James – Santa Rosa, CA
Associate (1975 – 1979)
Partner (1980 – 1982)
O'Brien, Watters & Davis, LLP – Santa Rosa, CA
Founding Partner (11-2-82)
Chair of Litigation (1985 – 2018)
Managing Partner (1998 – current)

Expert Witness:

Attorney Standard of Care
Attorney Fee Disputes
Attorney Ethics

Qualified as an Expert Witness:

Los Angeles County Superior Court
San Diego County Superior Court
Ventura County Superior Court
AAA Arbitrations (Los Angeles County)
JAMS Arbitration (Orange County)
MFAA Fee Arbitrations (El Dorado County; Sacramento County)

Bar Admissions:

State Bar of California – State Bar No. 63140 (Admitted 12-18-74)
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit
Various U.S. District Courts throughout California
U.S. Court of Military Appeals (COMA)
U.S. Tax Court
ABA
Sonoma County Bar Association

Trials:

Numerous Jury and Court Trials, Arbitrations
(2009 – 2014, more than 250 trial days)
Top-40 Jury Verdict in the U.S. in 2014 (assisted a former partner in an 80-day jury trial)
Cardoza v. Reed (fraud in the sale of commercial property)

Reported Appellate Cases in the Area of Attorney Conduct:

Gregori v. Bank of America (1989) 207 Cal.App.3d 291 (Trial & Appellate Counsel)
Flatt v. Superior Court (1994) 9 Cal.4th 275 (Consultant)
Hall v. Harker (1999) 69 Cal.App.4th 836 (Trial & Appellate Counsel)
Musser v. Provencher (2002) 28 Cal.4th 274 (Trial Counsel & Consultant)

Other Appeals; Leading case in area of Financial Abuse of an Elder and Personal Liability of Corporate Officers for their own Tortious Conduct:

Bonfigli v. Strachan (2011) 192 Cal.App.4th 1302 (Trial & Appellate Counsel)

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR):

AAA Commercial Arbitration Panelist, San Francisco (1978 – 2000)
AAA Law & Mediation Center Mediator, San Francisco (1990 – 2000)
Superior Court Judicial Arbitration Panelist, Sonoma County (since 1979)
Superior Court Settlement Conference Panelist:
 Sonoma County, Civil & Family Law (since 1980)
 Marin County, Civil (since 1980)
Sonoma County Superior Court Demurrer Facilitator, Discovery Facilitator
Private Mediator

Judge (Pro-Tem):

Sonoma County Superior Court
(Presided over a Medical Malpractice Jury Trial)
Sonoma County Small Claims Court
Marin County Municipal Court
(Presided over Court Trials)

Honors:

AV-Rated by Martindale-Hubbell (1989 – current)
Super Lawyers in Northern California (2007 – current)

Academic / Teaching Positions:

Empire College School of Law
 Professor of Torts (1990 – 1992)
Sonoma State University
 Paralegal Studies Program (early 1980's)
 Taught "Introduction to Law"

Publications;

For MCLE Programs:

- “Expert Depositions” (2020)
- “How to Prepare to Take a Key Deposition” (2016)
- “Defending Depositions” (2015)
- “The Top 20 Deposition Mistakes” (2014)
- “How to Take a Deposition of an Expert Witness... Any Expert” (2011)
- “Deposition Basics” (2011)

CEB Contributor;

CEB How-To-Guides:

- “Responding to a Demurrer” (pre-publication)
- “Moving for Summary Judgment” (pre-publication)