

PRESIDING JUSTICE JAMES A. ARDAIZ (RET.)

Fig Garden Financial Center

5260 North Palm Avenue

Fourth Floor

Fresno, California 93704

Tel: 559.432.5400

Fax: 559.432.5620

www.bakermanock.com

PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIALS

Administrative Presiding Justice, Fifth District Court of Appeal 1994-2010
Associate Justice, Fifth District Court of Appeal 1988-1994
Superior Court, County of Fresno, 1985-1988
Municipal Court, County of Fresno, 1981-1988
Chief Deputy District Attorney, Homicide, County of Fresno, 1977-1981
Deputy District Attorney, County of Fresno, 1974-1977

Hastings College of the Law, University of California, 1974
Fresno State College, 1970

AREAS OF PRACTICE

Mediation, discovery matters, arbitration, CCP 638 referee, appeal evaluation (civil/criminal), trial evaluation (civil/criminal), post-judgment appellate consideration, post judgment mediation, and strategic trial and appellate planning, complex evidentiary consultation.

EXPERIENCE

Alternative Dispute Resolution Broad experience in many areas including personal injury, property disputes, agribusiness, agricultural damage, employment law, business and governmental policy, construction/labor disputes, environmental disputes, on-site construction disagreements. Thirty years as a trial and appellate jurist handling virtually every type of case ranging from environmental impact issues, tort, evidence, employment, discovery, business, property, probate, criminal law and family.

Appeal Evaluation. Twenty-two years as an appellate justice, precedential opinions ranging from environmental impact, tort, evidence, employment law, discovery and criminal law. Author of over 2,000 written opinions as well as participation in nearly 6,000 cases at the appellate level.

OTHER EXPERIENCE AND PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION

California Jurist of the Year 1999-2000. The highest award that can be conferred on a sitting jurist in California.

Chair of the Executive Committee of the California Judicial Counsel by appointment of Chief Justice Malcolm Lucas and Chief Justice Ronald M. George.

Chair of the Task Force on Trial Court Employees creating the entire personnel system for California's 20,000 court employees including negotiating personnel/human resource issues, disciplinary systems, health benefits, retirement benefits and employment status with numerous state and local unions resulting in unanimous agreement of state, local, employee and union constituencies. Described by Chief Justice Ronald M. George as "a monumental achievement" providing the final basis for trial court funding in California.

Recognized Authority in Evidence. Written and taught in the field at the state and national level for over twenty years, Co-Author of California Evidence, an electronic research source, currently Professor of Evidence at San Joaquin College of Law.

National Work in Legal and Judicial Education. Instructor of Hawaii State Judiciary, National Council of Chief Judges, California Judicial College at Boalt Hall in the fields of evidence, trial practice, sentencing and administration. Lecturer and teacher of judges and lawyers in the fields of mediation, ethics, bias, evidence, opinion writing and judicial decision making.

Distinguished American Award (2008). Given by the Japanese American Citizens League for help in obtaining a memorial for World War II detainees.

Blaine Pettit Mentor Award (2004). Fresno County Young Lawyers for serving as a role model to the legal community.

2000 Alumnus of the Year, Hastings Alumni Association, Fresno Chapter (two time recipient)

Ralph Klepp Award for Judicial Management in California. Four Time Recipient

Oversight of Construction of the Fifth District Court of Appeal dealing with daily construction, design and labor issues. The facility has received national recognition for its design and innovation.

PUBLICATIONS

Authored numerous articles addressing evidence, judicial decision making, the role of the judiciary, principles of sentencing and Three Strikes.

Author, Hands Through Stone (Craven Street Book 2012)

Author, Night Whispers (currently scheduled for Fall 2015 publication)

California Evidence (Attorney Briefcase Publication Co-Author)

COMPENSATION

\$400.00 per hour
(Fee negotiable for public agencies.)