

Robert H. Oliver

Judge Robert Oliver has more than 40 years of legal experience in Fresno County. A business and estate planning lawyer for 22 years, Oliver was appointed to the Fresno Municipal Court in April of 1995 and elevated by consolidation to the Superior Court in April of 1998. Immediately prior to retiring from the bench in January 2015, after nearly 20 years of service, he sat by assignment on the Court of Appeal, Fifth District in November-December 2014.

Background

Judge Oliver has joined Baker Manock & Jensen as Of Counsel, where he will specialize in dispute resolution and mediation to help resolve issues between people and organizations. He is a Board Certified Estate Planning, Trust and Probate Law Specialist.

Among his assignments, Judge Oliver served in the trial department for 11 years, presiding over more than 200 jury trials. As Supervising Judge of the Probate Division, he was directly involved in more than 200 case settlements. He also served as presiding judge of the five-court Juvenile Department and as a member of the appellate panel of the Superior Court. He chaired the Court's jury oversight committee and was a member of statewide committees dealing with jury and judicial outreach issues. He served as an elected member of the Executive Committee of the Fresno County Superior Court for more than nine years. He served as a member of the Executive Board of the California Judges Association; was elected in 2008 as a Vice President and served as Vice President of the California Judges Association Foundation.

Judge Oliver has been a law school adjunct faculty member, teaching secured real property transactions and corporate law. He has taught business organization law for the paralegal program at San Joaquin College of Law and business law at the Craig School of Business, California State University, Fresno. Throughout his career, he has been a frequent speaker and panelist on a variety of subjects including: conflict resolution in the probate case; ethical issues for the business lawyer; the realities of succession planning; practical charitable giving ideas; and ethical considerations for the estate planning professional.

Areas of Practice

- Alternative Dispute Resolution & Mediation

Contact

roliver@bakermanock.com

Education

- Pepperdine University School of Law, Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution, Advanced Mediation (2014)
- Pepperdine University School of Law, Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution, Mediating the Litigated Case (2013)
- U.S. Air Force Air War College (seminar program graduate, 1984)
- American College, Bryn Mawr, PA (Chartered Life Underwriter designation, 1974)
- Golden Gate University School of Law (J.D., 1973)
- California State University, Fresno (B.S., Business Administration, 1966)

Bar Admissions

- State Bar of California (1955)

**Baker Manock
& Jensen** PC
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Service To The Community And The Legal Profession

Judge Oliver's dedication to the community and legal profession is demonstrated by the following examples of organizations in which he has served as president or chair. Saint Agnes Medical Center Foundation; Rotary Club of Fresno; Fresno City and County Historical Society; Fresno Estate Planning Council; Fresno County Interagency Council for Children and Families; California State University, Fresno Foundation; National Conference of Bar Foundations; the Foundation of the State Bar of California; Fresno County Bar Association; Fresno County Young Lawyers. Oliver was also elected a member and a vice president of the Board of Governors of the State Bar of California; and was appointed to the Judicial Nominees Evaluation Commission (JNE).

Recognitions

- Hon. Blaine Pettit Mentor Award, Fresno County Young Lawyers, 2014
- Champion of Justice Award, Central California Legal Services Inc., 2014
- Bernard E. Witkin Lifetime Achievement Award, Fresno County Bar Association, 2014
- Judicial Office of the Year – Leadership Award, California Bench-Bar Coalition, 2011
- California State University, Fresno, Distinguished Alumnus "TOP DOG", 2010
- California State University, Fresno, Foundation Service Award, 2010
- Central California Legal Services Award, 2002
- Leon S. Peters Award for Exemplary Service to the Community and His Profession, 2002
- Outstanding Alumnus, Golden Gate University School of Law, 1999
- Outstanding Alumnus of the California State University, Fresno, Craig School of Business, 1997

The Honorable Robert H. Oliver
Judge of the Superior Court of California—County of Fresno (Ret.)

Robert H. Oliver was appointed to the Fresno County Municipal Court in April of 1995 by California Governor Pete Wilson and elevated by consolidation to the Superior Court in April of 1998. He served as Presiding Judge of the five-court Juvenile Department and as a member of the appellate panel of the Superior Court. He served in the trial department for 11 years before appointment as Judge of the Probate Division in 2011. He sat by assignment on the Court of Appeal 5th District, November-December 2014, immediately prior to retiring from the bench in January, 2015 after nearly 20 years of service. He chaired the Court's Jury Oversight Committee and was a member of statewide committees dealing with jury and judicial outreach issues. He served as an elected member of the executive committee of the Fresno County Superior Court for more than nine years. He served as a member of the Executive Board of the California Judges Association; was elected in 2008 as a Vice-President and served later as Vice-President of the California Judges Association Foundation.

EDUCATION AND PRACTICE OF LAW

Oliver practiced law for more than 22 years and was a name partner with the firm of Wild, Carter, Tipton & Oliver, emphasizing business law and estate planning. He was certified by the State Bar of California as a specialist in the areas of Estate Planning, Trust and Probate law. Judge Oliver is a 1961 graduate of Clovis High School. He received his Bachelor's of Science degree in Business Administration from California State University, Fresno; Juris Doctorate from Golden Gate University School of Law; the Chartered Life Underwriter designation from the American College in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania; and is a graduate of the seminar program, Air War College of the U.S. Air Force.

SERVICE TO THE LEGAL PROFESSION THROUGH NATIONAL, STATE AND LOCAL LEADERSHIP

Active in local, state and national bar activities, prior to his appointment to the bench, Oliver was elected a member and a Vice-President of the Board of Governors of the State Bar of California. He was elected and served as President of the following organizations: National Conference of Bar Foundations; The Foundation of the State Bar of California; Fresno County Bar Association and Fresno County Young Lawyers. He served as a member of the Executive Committee of the Conference of Delegates of the State Bar of California and was appointed to the Judicial Nominees Evaluation Commission, charged with evaluating and reporting to the Governor of the State of California on all judicial candidates prior to their initial appointment.

SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY AND C.S.U. FRESNO

Serving his community and alma mater, Oliver served 16 years as Chair of the Board of Governors of the California State University Fresno Foundation, managing assets valued in excess of 100 million dollars. Upon retirement he was honored with the newly created position of Chair Emeritus. He serves on the board of the San Joaquin College of Law. Among his positions of community leadership, he has served as President or chairman of the following organizations: the Rotary Club of Fresno; Fresno City and County Historical Society; CSU Fresno, Business Associates; Fresno Estate Planning Council; Fresno County Interagency Council for Children and Families and the St. Agnes Medical Center Foundation. Other positions of community involvement have included board and executive committee membership of the CSU Fresno Alumni Association, the Fresno Regional Foundation, St. Agnes Medical Center Board of Trustees, boards of KPTV public television, CSU Fresno Craig School of Business Advisory Council and Sequoia Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

TEACHING AND LECTURING

Judge Oliver has been a law school adjunct faculty member, teaching in the areas of secured real property transactions and corporate law, has taught business organization law for the paralegal program at San Joaquin College of Law and business law at the Craig School of Business, CSU Fresno. He has lectured, served as a moderator and panelist and been a frequent keynote speaker on a diverse variety of topics, including conflict resolution, ethics and the law, impartiality and independence of the judiciary, juvenile justice, domestic violence, leadership in the volunteer sector and the history of traditional jazz in America.

RECOGNITION OF SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP (SELECTED HONORS)

He has received numerous awards and recognition for service and leadership roles to his profession and community, including: 2014 Hon. Blaine Pettit Mentor Award by Fresno County Young Lawyers; 2014 Champion of Justice Award “For dedicated service to equal justice. . . a true champion of justice for legal services and low income individuals. . .” by Central California Legal Services, Inc.; 2014 24th Annual Bernard E. Witkin Lifetime Achievement Award “In recognition of his lifelong dedicated service to the legal profession and community” by the Fresno County Bar Association; “2011 Judicial Officer of the Year – Leadership Award” by the California Bench-Bar Coalition; 2010 Distinguished Alumnus Award – CSU Fresno; The CSU Fresno Foundation Award in 2010, awarded since 1949 for meritorious service “to individuals who have achieved a high level of stature in their profession that reflect favorably on the Fresno Community and demonstrated significant leadership in the goals of the university”; selection as the 2002 recipient of the Leon S. Peters Award, recognizing a person who has “exhibited through the years of his/her career the attributes of Business Leadership and Public Service of which Leon S. Peters was an outstanding example”; Central California Legal Services Award in 2002 for “Lending Skill and Talent to Make the Promise of Justice a Reality”, Outstanding Alumnus, Golden Gate University School of Law—1999; Outstanding Alumnus of the Craig School of Business by the CSU Fresno Alumni Association—1997; Honorary Member of the Golden Key Honor Society, Beta Gamma Sigma National Honor Fraternity and Outstanding Alumnus and Friends Award, CSU Fresno, School of Business—1992; Awards of Recognition from the Beverly Hills Bar Foundation and the Foundation of the State Bar of California; Public School Advocate Award from the Association of California School Administrators; Community Leadership award from the Fresno Leadership Council; Awards from the Board of the Fresno Unified School District for development/implementing of the “Youth Court” program and from the “Count to Ten” program for increasing awareness regarding domestic violence. Listed in various “Who’s Who” publications. He has been named one of 34 “Most Powerful Fresnans” in a survey of community and business leaders conducted and published by the FRESNO BEE.

MILITARY STATUS

Oliver served in the United States Air/California Air National Guard for 22 years, joining as an Airman Basic Trainee in 1965 and retiring at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Among his responsibilities during his career as a “citizen soldier,” included service as Commander, 144th Fighter Interceptor Wing Resources Squadron 1984 – 1985; Staff Assistant – Reserve Forces Policy Board, Office of the Secretary of Defense, Washington, D.C. 1983 – 1985; Health Services Administrator, Medical Service Corps 144th USAF Clinic 1970 – 1983; Retired from active Air National Guard Service May, 1987; Retired to inactive status February, 1994. Awarded the Meritorious Service Award of the United States upon his retirement from active Air National Guard service.

FAMILY

Judge Oliver and his wife, Stephanie, have two sons, Charles, a graduate of Georgetown University, and Bradley, a graduate of George Washington University, two wonderful daughters-in-law, Dana and Cathy, and four delightful grandchildren.

The Honorable Robert H. Oliver
Selected Judicial Experience

Appointed to the Fresno County Municipal Court in April 1995. Elevated to Superior Court by consolidation in April 1998.

Presiding Judge – Juvenile Courts; 1997-1998.

Appellate Panel – Fresno Superior Court; 2004-2006.

Trial Department; 2001 – 2010.

Probate Department – Supervising Judge; 2011 – Present.

Executive Committee Fresno County Superior Court; 2003 – 2012.

Chair – Jury Oversight Committee; 1999 – 2015.

Temporary assignment by the Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court as a Justice to the Fifth District Court of Appeal; November – December, 2014.

California Judges Association, Judicial Council, Advisory Committee, Task Force and Committees

California Judges Association Executive Board; 2007 – 2010; Vice-President 2009 – 2010.

California Judges Association Foundation; 2010 – 2013; Vice-President 2012 – 2013.

CJA Probate and Mental Health Committee; 2012 – Present.

CJA Compensation and Benefits Committee; JRS II Oversight Sub Committee; 2001 – 2007.

Judicial Council Advisory Committee on Financial Accountability and Efficiency for the Judicial Branch; 2011 – Present. Appointed by Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court.

Judicial Council Jury Summons Working Group; 2003 – 2006.

Judicial Council Steering Committee for Jury Rule Proposals; 2005 – 2007.

Judicial Council Joint Working Group on Jury Administration; 2007 – 2010.

Ralph N. Kleps Award Selection Committee; 2006 – Present. (Committee evaluates Court sponsored projects on a statewide basis. Members are appointed by Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court.

Bench-Bar Coalition Team Member; 2006 – Present. (Statewide appointed committee dealing with California Legislative and Executive Branch issues of interest to the Judicial Branch and Bar.) Recipient of “2011 LEADERSHIP AWARD – Judicial Officer of the Year”.

Selected Experience – Evaluation and speaking about nonprofit and court related programs relating to access to justice, scholarship recipients, education regarding our system of justice and community outreach

Judge Oliver has gained substantial experience in developing, administering, evaluating, funding and making numerous public presentations about a wide range of issues, including those dealing with access to justice; the grand jury system; juvenile justice; judicial selection and election process; grand jury process, and the privilege of jury service; education of the public and selection of scholarship recipients, based on experience and responsibilities set forth above, as well as the following: President and Board member – National Conference of Bar Foundations; President and Board member – Foundation of the State Bar of California; Governor – State Bar of California; Chair - Fresno Interagency Council; Executive

committee – Fresno Regional Foundation. I.O.L.T.A Founding Board Member; Hollis G. Best Scholarship Award Selection Committee – Inception to Present.