JAMES D. CLAYTOR

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Areas of Practice

James D. Claytor has been a civil trial attorney for over 40 years, representing clients in a variety of civil disputes, including real estate matters, business trade regulation cases, complex litigation over alleged unfair business practices, employment law matters, insurance coverage disputes, intellectual property claims and trust and estate litigation. Mr. Claytor has been an "AV" rated lawyer by Martindale Hubbell since 1982.

Mr. Claytor has tried numerous cases, jury and non-jury, in both state and federal court, including very lengthy jury trials. Mr. Claytor has extensive experience in civil appellate practice in both state and federal courts. In addition to his trial practice, Mr. Claytor has acted as a neutral in over 100 mediations, both at the trial Court and at the appellate level. practical solutions. This is what he has done for decades in his different practice experiences.

Professional Experience

Civil Litigation

From 1972-1979, Mr. Claytor was a Deputy Attorney General with the California Attorney General. He joined the firm of Foley McIntosh and Foley in 1979. Mr. Claytor became a shareholder in 1981. He remained with the firm, which was later renamed Foley McIntosh Frey & Claytor, until 2011 when, after 48 years in existence, Foley McIntosh Frey & Claytor wound down its practice. Mr. Claytor has been with The Claytor Law Group since December of 2011.

In Mr. Claytor's early years with Foley McIntosh Frey & Claytor, a principal focus of his work was in defending products liability claims. Also during that time, Mr. Claytor provided representation for parties in a variety of business disputes, some representation of plaintiffs in personal injury actions, and representation of plaintiffs and defendants in landlord tenant disputes.

In the mid-1980's, the focus of Mr. Claytor's practice shifted to real estate litigation, including representation of owners of real property in earth movement cases, construction defect actions and condemnation actions.
In the late 1980's to the late 1990's, Mr. Claytor devoted a substantial portion of his efforts to employment law matters, including defending civil actions and administrative claims (DFEH & EEOC) relating to wrongful discharge, harassment and discrimination.

In the late 1990's, the focus of Mr. Claytor's litigation practice shifted to the defense of businesses in trade regulation cases, including lengthy jury and non-jury trials involving claims of unfair competition/false advertising/unfair practices such as sales below cost.

In the past several years, Mr. Claytor has represented both beneficiaries and trustees in trust and estate litigation.

Other Professional Experience

Mr. Claytor has acted at Judge Pro Tempore in Alameda County Superior Court. Mr. Claytor served as an adjunct Professor of Law at John F. Kennedy University, having taught Civil Procedure at the law school.

Since 1990, Mr. Claytor has served as a mediator for the Contra Costa County Superior Court, and in that capacity has mediated approximately 100 cases. On numerous occasions Mr. Claytor has also acted as a private mediator.

Education

Mr. Claytor was born in Berkeley, California, and attended high school in Saratoga, California. Mr. Claytor received his bachelor's degree in Political Science from Claremont McKenna College (cum laude) in 1969. Mr. Claytor graduated from Stanford University School of Law in June of 1972 with a juris doctor degree. He was admitted to practice in all of the Federal District Courts in California, as well as the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, and the United States Court of Federal Claims.