



### *Biographical Information*

## **Hon. Craig S. Kamansky, Ret. Judge of the Superior Court**

### **JUDICIAL EXPERIENCE:**

In April 1986, Craig Kamansky became one of the state's youngest judges when he was appointed to the San Bernardino Municipal Court. Soon thereafter in January of 1988, Judge Kamansky was elevated to the Superior Court bench. During his 21 year tenure on the bench, he served as Supervising Civil Judge in both the San Bernardino and Rancho Cucamonga courthouses. He served on the court's Executive Committee for 12 years. Judge Kamansky presided over hundreds of jury and court trials on every possible legal subject, from personal injury to medical malpractice to defamation and employment discrimination, and including contract, eminent domain, inverse condemnation, real estate, water, environmental suits, and over half a dozen jury trials on lemon law, and several bench trials. He handled hundreds of mandatory settlement conferences, and was successful in reducing his caseload dramatically in both the Central and Rancho Cucamonga courthouses.

### **DISPUTE RESOLUTION EXPERIENCE:**

Judge Kamansky retired January 1, 2007. He decided to put the settlement skills he learned through his civil assignments and CJER training to work, and he joined IVAMS. Since the beginning of 2007, Judge Kamansky has participated in over 2,000 mediations and over 100 arbitrations. He has successfully mediated a large number of auto accident and other personal injury disputes, including civil rights lawsuits and medical malpractice matters. He also has handled many employment cases, real estate matters, and business disputes. Over his career, he has encountered every kind of legal dispute.

### **LAW SCHOOL:**

In 1970, Craig Kamansky entered the UCLA School of Law. He became a member of the Board of Editors of the UCLA Law Review. He co-authored "Sentencing Under the Proposed Criminal Code" at 19 UCLA Law Review 526 (1972), and testified on his findings before a Senate committee. He served as a law clerk in the U.S. District Court. Graduating with honors in 1973, he passed the California Bar Exam in the summer.

### **CORPORATE OFFICE**

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**LEGAL EXPERIENCE:**

The future Judge Kamansky began his career as a Deputy District Attorney for San Bernardino County in the fall of 1973. He spent his first years doing jury trials, and then decided to give private practice a try. He was an associate at Rose, Klein & Marias for several years, but missed criminal trials and re-joined the District Attorney's Office in 1978. In 1982 he became Chief Deputy District Attorney for San Bernardino County, and was in charge of the 20,000 plus square miles comprising the Desert-Mountain Division.

**PERSONAL:**

Judge Craig Kamansky grew up in San Bernardino. He graduated in 1966 from Pacific High School, at that time the largest high school in the United States. He won the Principal's Award as the outstanding male student in his class. The future judge then attended the University of California at Berkeley during its riotous days in the late '60's. Having survived being shot-gunned by the police (minor injury) on the day of the People's Park takeover, he graduated from the School of Criminology with Honors. Too short to become a police officer due to height requirements, he decided to try law school.

**OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES:**

Judge Kamansky has participated in the statewide high school Mock Trial program since its inception. He has been an attorney coach for the past 15 years and for 10 years has been attorney coach for the very successful Redlands East Valley High School (REV). Since the school's founding in 2000, REV has won the county championship 5 times and has gained a state wide reputation for excellence.

Judge Kamansky is a collector of classic cars, primarily from the mid-50's. He is well known in car show circles in Orange County. He is a member of Classic Thunderbirds International; Crown Victoria Association; Vintage Volkswagen Association; and the Piss & Moan Club of Orange County.