

IVAMS

ARBITRATION & MEDIATION SERVICES



Biographical Information

WILLIAM F. RITNER, ESQ.

Attorney at Law

Mr. Ritner is a native of Nebraska and came to California in 1958. His first employment was as a maintenance mechanic for a large production facility in Los Angeles. He then entered law enforcement, first as a Police Officer for the City of Pasadena for several years and then as a Deputy of the Los Angeles County Marshal's Office for several more years, where he attained the rank of Sergeant. As the Personnel & Training Office for that Department he assisted in the formation of the Law Enforcement Academy of the Rio Honda Junior College. He was involved both as a supervisor and an instructor at that facility. In that capacity he instructed new officers in various aspects of both criminal laws and accident investigation and reconstruction, was certified as a Driving Instructor for the Emergency Vehicle Operations Course, law enforcement ethics and the lawful use of force. While employed in law enforcement, Mr. Ritner entered night school at Southwestern University, graduating *cum laude* in 1965. He passed the Bar Exam that summer and was sworn into the California State Bar and the United States District Court, Southern District, on January 5, 1966. On January 10, 1966, Bill joined the firm operated by Hobart G. Patterson. He became a full partner in the firm in 1968 and the firm was renamed Patterson, Ritner & Lockwood. He obtained admission to the US District Court, Northern District, on February 13, 1985. He remained as a partner with that firm until March 2007, at which time he withdrew as a partner and became semi-retired. He continues to practice law, being Of Counsel in the firm of Brown & Ritner in San Bernardino.

Since becoming an attorney in 1966, Mr. Ritner has been involved in the preparation and trial of all types of tort litigation on behalf of defendants, and on occasion has represented plaintiffs. He has tried a great number of Jury Trials, all civil, and became a member of A.B.O.T.A. in 1973. His background in mechanics and law enforcement carried over into his legal career and in the early years was heavily involved in auto accident litigation. He then developed a substantial practice in the field of products liability in addition to the accident litigation, and has represented a number of national manufacturers, such as Harley Davidson and Black Brothers Company. In approximately 1975 he became involved in the preparation and trial of professional liability suits. The majority of his professional negligence experience is in the field of Medical Negligence, however, he has also been involved in the handling of Insurance Agent and Engineering errors and omissions litigation. He assumed management of the San Bernardino office of the firm in 1994. Since then his practice has evolved to primarily involve Medical Negligence cases and the representation of physicians before the California Medical Board. The majority of his representation at this time involves claims made against the County of San Bernardino, with which his firm has an ongoing contract.

Prior to the move to San Bernardino, Mr. Ritner was on the Arbitration Panel of the Los Angeles Superior Court for a number of years. During that time he acted as the Arbitrator in a number of Superior Court Actions, the vast majority of which involved injury to the human body and the tort claims relative thereto. After moving to San Bernardino he completed the Pepperdine University course "Mediating the Litigated Case" and has acted as a Mediator in a number of litigated cases in the past few years. His strong background in the bio mechanics of injury and medicine has proven to be of value in mediating injury cases of all types. He enjoys a reputation as being a hard working and patient mediator with the ability to understand and evaluate the contentions of both sides and thus "close the gap" and achieve a successful conclusion.

He is available for Arbitration or Mediation throughout Southern California.

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