



HON. OWEN LEE KWONG (RET.)

Los Angeles County Superior Court

Judge Owen Lee Kwong is well known for his broad and extensive experience in settling cases. He was the first judge to be assigned to the Los Angeles Superior Court's Central Civil Settlement Program. He is especially skilled in settling high-profile, complex cases and has done so all over the country and abroad, including multi-party federal and state cases. In 2003, Judge Kwong was assigned to the ADR Department and, prior to that, handled a direct calendar, fast-track civil trial court and MSCs. Judge Kwong is highly regarded and respected by attorneys and fellow judges, who sent their most contentious cases to him for settlement. Known as the go-to judge, he is an outstanding neutral respected for his intelligence, preparation, broad knowledge of case law, persistence and witty sense of humor. Judge Kwong is considered the **master of settlement!**

CONFLICT RESOLUTION EXPERIENCE

Among Judge Kwong's noted accomplishments:

- Overseeing settlement of the landmark Roman Catholic Diocese of Orange case, which settled in three nights after it had been pending for three years.
- Settling one of the largest environmental disputes in U.S. history involving companion cases *Texaco Refining and Marketing Inc. v. Fireman's Fund* and *Four Star Oil and Gas Co. v. Allianz Insurance Co.* The matter involved more than 30 law firms, nearly 200 attorneys and 2,500 environmental sites around the world
- Settling *In re: Structured Settlement Litigation* (BC 244111) and Related Cases and Related Cross-Action involving defendants Bank of America as successor to Security Pacific, Bankers Trust Company, Bears Stern, Wells Fargo, U.S.Trust, Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith, etc.
- Settling *In re Medi-Cal* for \$350 million; the cases involved a 10-year-old suit brought by the California Health Care Association against state and federal governments for Medi-Cal reimbursements that were too low
- Handling antitrust cases as a Deputy Attorney General, Supervising Deputy Attorney General in the antitrust unit, and Special Assistant to the United States Attorney General, including *Levi Strauss* (price-fixing), *In re Cement* (bid rigging), *In re Mitsubishi* (price-fixing), *In re Petroleum* (price-fixing), *In re Highway* (bid-rigging- criminal), *American Stores* (Merger), etc.
- Serving as a Special Master appointed to oversee the related state court litigation known as California Judicial Council Coordination Proceeding No. 4368 in the United States District Court Northern District of Ohio Eastern Division titled, *In re: Welding Fume Products Liability Litigation* (Case No. 1:03-CV-1700).

Judge Kwong is based in California and available nationally and internationally.

Judge Kwong was appointed in April 1989 to the Los Angeles Municipal Court by Governor Deukmejian and elevated in January 1993 to the Los Angeles Superior Court by Governor Wilson. He was the Supervising Judge for the central arraignment courts, Los Angeles Municipal Court and Supervising Judge for the East District Juvenile Court, Los Angeles Superior Court. He has presided over direct calendar fast-track civil, complex civil, long-cause civil, criminal, delinquency, dependency, and probate proceedings and has sat on assignment (pro tem) on the Court of Appeal. As an attorney, he has presented criminal matters before state and federal grand juries.

Judge Kwong worked as a Deputy Attorney General, California Department of Justice, as a Supervising Deputy, Antitrust Section, as an acting Assistant Attorney General for various periods, and as a Special Assistant to the U.S. Attorney in antitrust matters. He is admitted to the California Bar, numerous Bars of the Federal District Court, Federal Courts of Appeal, and the United States Supreme Court. Currently licensed as a pharmacist, Judge Kwong worked as a pharmacist, including supervising pharmacist, at the University of California Medical Center and as Interim chief pharmacist for Kaiser Permanente in Sacramento.

EDUCATION & TRAINING

- J.D., University of California at Los Angeles
- B.S., L.S. Skaggs School of Pharmacy (cum laude, Pharmacy)

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HON. OWEN LEE KWONG (RET.) *continued*

ORGANIZATIONS & ACHIEVEMENTS

- Member and chair of the Judicial Council, Civil and Small Claims Advisory Committee; chair, Legislative Issues Committee; member, Liaison Subcommittee on Statistical Reporting, Judicial Council Court Administration Advisory Committee; CJER, Planning Committee Civil Law and Procedure Institute; and State Bar Judicial Advisory Committee on Legal Forms; member, Southern California Chinese Lawyers Association; member and former president, California Asian Judges Association, California Judges Association, and California State Advisory Committee, United States Commission on Civil Rights.
- Recipient of State Bar of California Commendation for pro bono legal services and "Public Service Award" for pro bono legal services.
- Recipient of the Asian Pacific American Bar Association's 2010 Distinguished Jurist Award at the Asian Pacific American Heritage Month (APAHM) reception.
- Selected as one of the Leading 500 Judges in America by *Lawdragon* (2006).
- Consultant on various books and periodicals; lecturer on numerous subjects including Mediation and Settlement to both national and local audiences of judges and attorneys.



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