



My training to become a lawyer started in 1959, at the age of ten. I got a job delivering newspapers on my bicycle. After five years, I moved on to working in a hamburger stand. This was short-lived. I got a better job working as a busboy at the International House of Pancakes. After a year working weekends (starting at seven in the morning), I got a job in a tobacco shop, specializing in pipes and cigars. I worked in this field from high school until I graduated from law school in 1974. While an undergraduate, I worked in the pool hall at the Cal student union and for two years (1969-1971) as a “student trainee” for the former Human Resources Development Department (now Employment Development Department), at what was then called a Youth Opportunity Center, in downtown Oakland and West Oakland.

My non-legal work experience was very important. It exposed me to a very diverse group of people from all economic, racial and educational backgrounds. It helped develop my communication skills and gave me an understanding of all types of people.

After passing the bar in 1974, I was lucky to get a job paying \$5.00 an hour summarizing depositions for an outstanding trial lawyer, Patrick M. Hyde, in Walnut Creek. The case was challenging: *Synanon v. Hearst*, a defamation action brought by the Oakland drug treatment facility against the *San Francisco Examiner* arising out of an expose that allegedly defamed the organization.

After six weeks on an hourly basis, I was hired as a full-time associate. Over the next five years, I was fortunate enough to have prepared, tried and participated in a variety of complex civil cases. I was taught by a man who had the highest ethical standards, work habits and attention to detail. Much of my experience was in this county, when the law library was on the fourth floor of the courthouse. I love this county.

In 1980, I became a sole practitioner in Oakland. My practice has focused on legal malpractice and complex business litigation. I practice primarily in San Francisco, San Mateo, Alameda and Contra Costa counties, but have had cases in all nine bay area counties as well as Sacramento, Kern, Merced, Ventura, Fresno, Placer, El Dorado, Alpine, Los Angeles, Orange, Santa Barbara, Riverside and Monterey and federal court in the Central, Northern and Eastern Districts of California and Arizona state court. I have tried in excess of 100 cases, jury and non-jury, in state and federal courts as well as arbitrations. I am a certified specialist in legal malpractice.

I have given presentations for CEB, the Alameda County Bar Association (trusts and estates), U.C. Berkeley. I regularly attend the ABA legal malpractice programs and have attended the COPRAC ethics seminars and am a Special Deputy Trial Counsel for the State Bar of California.

I have achieved a reasonable degree of professional success. I am at a point in my career where I have the time and desire to serve on this board. My lawyer in the library experience has been most rewarding. I want to do what I am able to expand the program and make the library more available to the community and better able to serve those lawyers who don’t have the resources to have the benefit of the library’s services in their office.