

Creative Dispute Resolution

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Mediation and ADR Services

Founded 1986 by Paul D. Fritz Esq. (1941-2011)

David W. Long, Judge of the Superior Court (Ret.)
David M. Karen, Esq.

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JudgeLong@cdrmediation.com

DK@cdrmediation.com

May 3, 2016

Via Email and U.S. Mail

ndimitrova@countyofsb.org

Ms. Natalie Dimitrova
County of Santa Barbara
1105 Santa Barbara Street
Courthouse, East Wing, 2nd Fl.
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

**Re: ADR Panel
Letter of Interest
David M. Karen**

Dear Ms. Dimitrova:

Please allow this correspondence to confirm that I am delighted to accept your invitation to serve as an approved Arbitrator for the Mobile Home Rent Control Board for the County of Santa Barbara. As requested, enclosed please find my Firm History, Legal Resume and Mediation Curriculum Vitae, for your review

Very truly yours,


David M. Karen

Enclosures

3155 Old Conejo Road - Box 7
Thousand Oaks, CA 91320
805.498.9494 phone/805.498.3030 Fax

HISTORY OF THE FIRM

David M. Karen is in his 31st year of practice as a accomplished Trial Attorney and Litigator representing both Plaintiff and Defense interests since 1985. His firm, the DK Law Group, specializes in the representation, litigation and trial of virtually all civil matters, having over thirty trials to verdict throughout the State of California. The DK Law Group practice involves all aspects of civil litigation of commercial and business damage claims, whether of serious injury or business interests. While actively involved as a civil litigator, since 1999 Mr. Karen has also been appointed as Mediator for over 500 Superior court actions and has presided as Judge pro tem - Settlement Judge for trials pending in the Ventura County Superior Court, (Department 22) since 1999.

Mr. Karen practices economical, yet aggressive representation with a client base established primarily by referral from carriers, counsel and past clients. Depending on the nature and volume of the litigation, The Law Offices of David Karen can offer a variety of fee structures where appropriate, striving to be competitive with the market involved. As a second generation litigator, Mr. Karen has developed an astute ability to efficiently prepare matters for trial on short or minimal notice.

AREAS OF PRACTICE

Representing the full spectrum of civil litigation matters, this firm's practice has extensive experience in all aspects of litigation including professional negligence (medical and legal) business and corporate litigation (interference, trade libel, breach of contract, breach of fiduciary duties, fraud) municipal and governmental claims, transportation, construction defect, employment litigation, first amendment issues, premises liability, products liability, automobile negligence, personal injury, and insurance disputes. The firm does not assist in matters of criminal or family law. The firm was created by representing insurance defense perspectives and has therefore attained an astute ability for the efficient evaluation and representation of all civil claims.

A. COMMERCIAL AND INSURANCE MATTERS

From inception, David M. Karen has practiced extensively in the area of insurance matters, representing insurance companies, business owners and individual insureds. A substantial portion of the litigation practice has been devoted to representation of claims in complex, multi-party litigation as well as matters involving Officer errors and omissions claims, premises liability, real estate (construction defect and breach of contract), municipal and governmental, automobile negligence, products liability, professional negligence (medical and legal malpractice), breach of insurance contract and personal injury/negligence representation. The firm has been routinely appointed as independent counsel (Cumis) pursuant to Civil Code section 2860.

B. EMPLOYMENT LAW

The firm's clientele has included both large (\$250M/year revenues) and small businesses with all issues in the areas of business and employment law, specifically in wrongful termination, discrimination and harassment claims, class action, wage and hour litigation and compliance, as well as breach of contract, interference and confidentiality actions. The firm has handled matters on behalf of both Plaintiffs and Defendants, for both small and large business interests, achieving multiple successful defense and a seven figure verdicts for our clientele.

C. TORT AND BUSINESS LITIGATION

The firm has substantial experience in litigating and resolving business, personal injury, contractual, construction defect, employment, professional negligence (medical and legal), transportation, products liability and premises liability claims. Plaintiff representation of tort claims are usually limited to catastrophic, serious/permanent injury and wrongful death matters.

DAVID M. KAREN, Esq.
TRIAL ATTORNEY & LITIGATOR & DISCOVERY REFEREE

3155 Old Conejo Road
Thousand Oaks, CA 91320
(805) 498-1212

Attorney at Law: Member, State Bar of California

PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT

- 3/11 - Present DK LAW GROUP - Senior Managing Partner
- 5/97 - 3/11 LAW OFFICES OF DAVID M. KAREN
Oxnard, California
Civil Litigation/Trial Practice/Mediation
- 5/88 - 5/97 LOVRETOVICH & KAREN
Trial Counsel, Managing Partner
10 Attorney Firm
- 11/85 - 5/88 GOLDSTONE & LOVRETOVICH
Personal Injury and Business Litigation;
Insurance Defense Practice
- Associate: Full file responsibility through
 arbitration and trial.
- 5/83 - 11/85 RISLEY & WHITE
Los Angeles, California
Civil, Business & Medical Malpractice Litigation
- Associate / Law Clerk: Responsibilities included depositions, pre-
 trial hearings, discovery, motion and opposition papers, summary
 judgments and interviews. Law clerk responsibilities included
 legal research and points and authorities
- 1/84 - 5/84 LOS ANGELES DISTRICT ATTORNEY
Legal Intern: Responsibilities included the preparation
 and the prosecution of six jury trials, and one court trial.

EDUCATION

LOYOLA LAW SCHOOL, Los Angeles, CA

J.D. Degree - May 1984
Honors - Dean's List 1983 - 1984

Jessup Moot Court Team
State Champions - National Finalist - 1983
State Advocate Honors (91.17 Average)
Unanimous Best Intramural Oralist - Fall 1983

Jessup Moot Court Board
Regional Team Advisor - Spring 1984
Intramural Competition Coordinator - Fall 1983

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, Northridge, CA

Degree: Bachelor of Science - Spring 1981
Major: Business Administration - *Accounting*
Honors: *Cum Laude*



MEDIATION & ARBITRATION EXPERIENCE

1999–Present **California Superior Courts**

- ADR Panelist
- Excess of 500 Mediations

1999–Present **Ventura County Superior Court**

- Judge *Pro Tem*
- Settlement *Pro Tem*—Dept. 22 (MSC Calendar)

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

2000–2012 **Pepperdine University, School of Law**

- The Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution
- Preventing Bad Settlement Decisions and Impasse (18 hours)
- Improvisational Mediation & Advanced Mediation (18 hours)
- Advanced Mediation Training— Employment, Medical Malpractice, Personal Injury (18 hours)
- Advanced Mediation Training— Skills and Techniques (18 hours)
- Mediating the Litigated Case (42 hours)

EDUCATION

1983 **Loyola Law School**

- Juris Doctorate
- Honors - Jessup Moot Court Team State Champions - National Finalist - 1983 State Advocate Honors (91.17 Average) Unanimous Best Intramural Oralist - Fall 1983 Jessup Moot Court Board Regional Team Advisor - Spring 1984 Intramural Competition Coordinator, Fall 1983

1981 **California State University, Northridge**

- Bachelor of Science
- Business Administration – Accounting, *Cum Laude*

PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT

1997–Present **DK Law Group**

- Thousand Oaks, CA
- Senior Managing Partner
- Civil Litigation/Trial Practice/Mediation Plaintiff & Defense Practice

1988 – 1997 **Lovretovich & Karen**

- Los Angeles, CA
- Attorney Partner
- Trial Counsel, Managing Partner Plaintiff & Defense

1985 – 1988 **Goldstone & Lovretovich**

Los Angeles, CA
Associate

1983 – 1985 Risely & White
Los Angeles, CA
Associate
Civil, Business & Medical Malpractice Litigation Defense

1984 – 1984 Los Angeles District Attorney
Los Angeles, CA
Intern

MEMBERSHIPS & COMMUNITY SERVICE

2013–Present Ventura County Bar Association Alternative Dispute Resolution (“ADR”) section, Chair

1997–Present Ventura County Bar Association

1984–Present Los Angeles County Bar Association

State Bar of California

United States Supreme Court

United States District Court, Central District and Southern Districts