



HON. VEDICA PURI (RET.)

Mediator • Arbitrator • Referee



Hon. Vedica Puri: A Distinctive Approach to Resolution

Rare 360° Trial Perspective

Extensive experience as defense counsel, plaintiff counsel, and trial judge—allowing her to evaluate risk the way each decision-maker actually does.

Insurance Coverage & Bad Faith Expertise

Deep expertise in policy interpretation, insurer responsibilities and conduct, exposure analysis, and settlement dynamics involving carriers and reinsurers.

Post-COVID Jury Psychology Lens

Evaluations informed by how California juries currently assess credibility, damages, and institutional defendants—not pre-2020 assumptions.

High-Intensity, Hands-On Style

Known for sustained engagement, strategic pressure, and follow-up that converts impasse into resolution.

Creative Problem Solver

Recognized on the bench for innovative, balanced solutions to novel legal and human problems—especially under unprecedeted conditions.

“She is the best mediator I have had to date. Her follow-up is amazing. Even though we did not settle during the 1st day of mediation, it was her consistent follow-up that nudged the parties to agree to a second session.”

- Client Testimonial

Judge Vedica Puri (Ret.) brings distinct energy, rigor, and clarity to complex civil disputes. Over the course of a legal career spanning more than three decades, she has served as a trial lawyer, a partner in private practice, and a San Francisco Superior Court judge—experience that places her among the few neutrals who have sat in every seat that matters when cases are evaluated, tried, and resolved.

Before her judicial appointment, Judge Puri built a formidable litigation and trial practice representing both plaintiffs and defendants in high-stakes matters, with particular depth in insurance coverage and bad faith disputes. She tried dozens of jury and bench trials across a wide range of civil disciplines, gaining first-hand insight into how cases actually unfold in the courtroom—and how juries truly respond to evidence, credibility, and risk. That trial grounding continues to define her work as a neutral.

In 2019, Governor Jerry Brown appointed Judge Puri to the San Francisco Superior Court, where she presided over civil trials, mandatory settlement conferences, law and motion, and probate matters. She was also a member of the court's Civil Settlement Panel, an assignment she regarded as one of the most meaningful of her judicial career. Known for her preparation, decisiveness, and ability to connect with litigants and counsel alike, Judge Puri developed a reputation for moving entrenched disputes toward resolution. She frequently stayed beyond court hours to continue working with parties, driven by the belief that effective settlement requires persistence, candor, and a clear understanding of both legal and human dynamics.

“We thought Judge Puri was fantastic. She understood the complex facts and issues. She had a good sense of when to push and pull back. She also handled emotions incredibly well (family dispute). Overall, I would say we were impressed.”

- Client Testimonial

Throughout her time on the bench, Judge Puri was recognized as a creative and pragmatic problem solver, particularly when confronting novel issues and emotionally charged disputes. During the COVID era, she was selected to handle the first jury trial post-lockdown, and became known for innovative decision-making that balanced constitutional rights, public safety, and courtroom realities—an approach that continues to inform her mediation style today. Her evaluations are grounded not in outdated assumptions, but in a clear-eyed understanding of post-COVID California jury psychology, evolving verdict trends, and real-world exposure.

As a mediator, Judge Puri is direct, engaged, and highly evaluative. She provides parties with candid, realistic assessments of risk, drawing on her experience as both a trial judge and trial lawyer to test assumptions, challenge narratives, and clarify decision points. She is particularly effective in settling complex and emotionally charged matters. Her high-intensity, hands-on style is paired with a calm, steady demeanor that keeps parties focused, grounded, and moving toward resolution. Consistent follow-up has helped many parties bridge impasse and reach agreement.

Clients and colleagues consistently describe Judge Puri as fair, perceptive, and decisive. She is someone who knows when to push, when to pull back, and how to handle road blocks without losing momentum. She is frequently selected for disputes requiring credibility with insurers, seasoned trial counsel, and sophisticated decision-makers, as well as for matters involving layered factual records and significant exposure.

Judge Puri mediates and arbitrates cases involving insurance coverage and bad faith, business and contract disputes, employment matters, legal malpractice, personal injury, probate and trust disputes, and real property conflicts. Across all practice areas, her focus remains the same: disciplined evaluation, strategic problem-solving, and sustained engagement until resolution is achieved.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- Personal Injury
- TBI (Mild to Catastrophic)
- Premises Liability
- Insurance Coverage & Bad Faith
- Insurance Appraisal (Umpire)
- Employment + Class Action/PAGA
- Legal Malpractice
- Business/Breach of Contract
- Probate, Estates & Trusts
- Real Property

EDUCATION

- Santa Clara University, School of Law – Juris Doctor (J.D.), 1994
- St. Xavier's College, Bombay, India – Bachelor of Arts in English Literature, First Class, 1991

JUDICIAL EXPERIENCE

- Judge of the Superior Court, San Francisco County (2019-2025)
- Pro Tem, San Francisco Superior Court (2004-2018)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- **Pillsbury & Coleman LLP, San Francisco, CA**
Senior Associate, Partner (2002-2018)
- **Drinker, Biddle & Reath LLP, San Francisco, CA**
Senior Associate (2001-2002)
- **Sedgwick LLP, San Francisco, CA**
Associate (2000-2001)
- **Alborg, Veiluva & Cannata LLP, Walnut Creek, CA**
Junior Associate (1996-1999)

PROFESSIONAL AWARDS AND HONORS

- Super Lawyer – Northern California (2012-2018)
- Bay Area Mover & Shaker, San Francisco Chronicle (2010)
- Dean's Scholarship, Santa Clara University School of Law

PHILANTHROPY

Judge Puri's dedication to philanthropy and community service is reflected in the Puri Family Scholarship, which she established in honor of her late mother. This annual scholarship, matched by the Asian American Bar Association of the Greater Bay Area (AABA) Law Foundation, provides crucial financial assistance to aspiring Asian Pacific American law students. Through this meaningful tribute, Judge Puri honors her mother's legacy while supporting the next generation of legal professionals.