

Joseph J. Bell

EMPLOYMENT AND PRO BONO HISTORY

- 1982- present** **ATTORNEY, SOLO PRACTITIONER (SBC #92093)**
Family Lawyer, for 24 years a State Bar Certified Specialist in family law, also emphasizing juvenile law, and civil litigation in the areas of environmental law, civil rights and consumer law. Former counsel, local fire districts. Court-Appointed counsel in family/juvenile dependency matters. *Pro bono* counsel to various non-profit groups and selected individuals.
- 1980-1981** **SUPERVISING ATTORNEY**
Nevada County Legal Assistance, Inc., aka Northern California Lawyer Access Referral Service handling family, consumer, public benefits, and general civil matters for low-income Nevada County residents.
- 1979-1980** **LAW CLERK**
Law Office of Thomas E. Horn, Esq. San Francisco, CA. (now retired)
Civil and criminal litigation; research and drafting responsibilities.
- 1977-1979** **LAW CLERK**
San Francisco Neighborhood Legal Assistance Foundation Litigation Unit, aka Bay Area Legal Aid
Social Security and disability administrative appeals; family and housing litigation.
- 1977-1979** **LAW CLERK**
Public Advocates, Inc., San Francisco
Civil rights litigation and poverty law; class action litigation.

EDUCATION

- 1979** J.D., New College School of Law, San Francisco, California
1969 B.A., Political Science, University of Nevada, Reno, Nevada

PRO BONO AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Pro tem Judge** Nevada County Superior Courts (Family Law, Support matters and Small Claims)
Nevada County Court Arbitration and County Bar Fee Arbitration Judge and Program Administrator
Placer County Settlement Judge Program; private dispute resolution and judging. Private judging.
- Mediator** Trained to mediate Family Law and Civil Disputes, including same-sex and non-marital partnerships.
- Officer** Member and President (2009) Association of Certified Family Law Specialists
Founding Member and President, ACFLS Charitable Foundation, 2015-
Member, State Bar of California, Legal Services Trust Fund Commission (IOLTA), 2000-2005
Member, Judicial Council of California, Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee, 1997-2001
Former Member and Vice-President, Board of Governors (now Trustees) and Former Chair, Legislative and Court Relations and Legal Services Committees, State Bar of California, 1994-1997
President, Nevada County Bar Association, 1986-1987, Executive Committee, 2013-2016, Secretary, 2014
Ophir Hill Firefighters Association, 1991-1992
Vice-Chair, Ophir Hill Fire District Board of Directors, 1994
- Board of Directors** Nevada County Community Services Council (aka Sierra Nevada Children=s Services) 1982
Housing Development Corporation, 1982
Nevada County Volunteer Bureau 1981-1983
Legal Services of Northern California, Inc., 1981-1984
Democratic Central Committee, 1982-1986
Community Players of Nevada County, 1984-1985
AIDS Legal Referral Panel, Northern California, 1988-1993

Delegate California State Bar, Conference of California Bar Associations Delegate, 1984-1988 and after Member, Calendar Coordinating Committee, 1990-1992; Executive Committee, 1991-1994

Member

Current

Nevada County Bar Association
Tahoe-Truckee Bar Association
Placer County Bar Association
American Bar Association
Association of Certified Family Law Specialists (ACFLS)
Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Advisory Board
Nevada County Bar Fee Arbitration Panel, (and Administrator) and Family Law Section
Founding Member, Sierra Nevada Group, Sierra Club
Founding Member, Board member and past-President of South Yuba River Citizens League, Inc.
Founding Member, Sierra Foothills AIDS Foundation
Nevada County Business Association and Chamber of Commerce
Nevada County Historical Society
Sierra Business Council
National Association of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers and Ethiopia XII Volunteers
Kiwanis International
Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom (BALIF)

Past

Nevada County Law Library Trustee
California Judges Association, Family Law Committee (1996-97)
State Bar Committee on Professional Rules and Conduct, (COPRAC)
State Bar Committee on Legal Services for the Poor
Voluntary Legal Services Program, Legal Services of Northern California, Inc.
Nevada County Advisory Committee on Growth
Mobil Home Rent Mediation Board, Nevada County
Air Pollution Control Hearing Board, Nevada County

Also Admitted

Federal District Court Bar
Northern District of California
Eastern District of California
Central District of California
United States Court of Appeals (Ninth Circuit)

OTHER ACTIVITIES AND INTERESTS

Past FCC Licensed Broadcaster, KVMR, Nevada City, California
Past member, Local 1100, AFL-CIO, San Francisco
Peace Corps Volunteer, 1969-71, Ethiopia

Pro Bono Legal Work

Organizer and Lecturer, Nevada County Courts, Family Law Update 2004-
Sierra Foothills AIDS Foundation
Nevada County Legal Assistance, Inc., Northern California Lawyer Access Referral Service
Kiwanis International
California Judicial Council
Community organizations and neighborhood groups

Interests

World travel, cinema, snow skiing, running, canoeing, hiking and climbing, biking, music, theater, art, vegetarian cuisine and wine, genealogy.