

SDDL Distinguished Member Profiles

The San Diego Defense Lawyers will honor both Dan White and Sid Stutz at the 18th Annual Installation Dinner to be held February 1, 2003.

Daniel M. White – San Diego Defense Lawyer of the Year



Daniel M. White is the managing owner of White, Noon & Oliver and focuses his practice on civil defense litigation, including but not limited to professional liability and

products liability cases. Mr. White is a 1975 graduate of the University of California Hastings College of Law. Interestingly, he began his career as an apprentice to a real estate appraiser before he started his legal career at Holt, Rhodes, & Hollywood, which is now known as Neil, Dymott, Perkins, Brown & Frank.

Mr. White attributes his success to what he learned from Judge Hollywood, Mr. Rhodes, and Mr. Neil. He provides fellow attorneys with three pieces of advice his mentors taught him:

- (1) Your word is your bond;
- (2) Your job is not always to see the cheapest result, but what is just and right; and
- (3) Always treat all counsel and opponents with the same courtesy and respect with which you would like to be treated.

Mr. White's most fulfilling legal experiences have been when he represented close friends. One of his most memorable cases was in the late 1980's when he successfully defended a man who was sued for negligence in maintaining a home he owned and rented out in a claim for over \$10 million. In this case, the insurance company disputed coverage under a \$300,000 policy and Mr. White successfully defended on the issue of causation. While Mr. White focuses most of his career on defense work, he does not hesitate to represent those who need his

help whether they are plaintiffs or defendants. For example, Mr. White once settled a wrongful termination case for a long time neighbor in the amount of \$790,000.

Mr. White is not only a successful attorney, but he also enjoys the practice of law, which has attributed to his success. For those who do not enjoy your practice, he recommends starting your own practice so you can control your practice instead of having it control you.

During his free time, Mr. White enjoys spending time with his wife and traveling to his second homes in Steamboat Springs, Colorado and Cabo San Lucas. Mr. White is an avid fisherman, which is clearly reflected in his office décor. Mr. White also enjoys spending time with his three sons, Jeff, Greg, and Drew.

Mr. White will be honored as Defense Lawyer of the Year by the San Diego Defense Lawyers at the 2003 installation dinner.

Sidney A. Stutz – San Diego Defense Lawyers 2002 Honoree



Sidney A. Stutz began practicing law in the Navy after he graduated from Harvard Law School in 1957. Mr. Stutz's first major case was a murder case involving a racial conflict

on a ship. Throughout his 45 years of practice he has served as the President of the San Diego Defense Lawyers and as the President of the San Diego Chapter and a National Board Member of the American Board of Trial Advocates. Mr. Stutz has practiced in a number of different practice areas. While he has focused heavily on defense law, he has represented both

plaintiffs and defendants and believes it is a benefit to have represented clients on both sides. In Mr. Stutz's opinion, a trial lawyer is first and foremost an advocate for the client, no matter if the lawyer is defending or prosecuting.

Mr. Stutz has significant experience in the area of professional malpractice, focusing mostly on the defense of lawyers and doctors, and has also devoted a large portion of his time to products liability cases, including mass tort representation in the breast implant area and asbestos litigation. His mass tort experience presented him with management challenges due to the large number of cases involved. His representation of professionals has been very rewarding despite the challenges of representing professionals who have their own ideas about how their cases should be handled.

Mr. Stutz's advice to fellow attorneys is to maintain courtesy and civility among counsel and towards clients, persons on the opposing side, the court, and the community in general. He urges all attorneys to use their power carefully by being diligent in their practice and not abusing their powers.

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