



Superior Court of California County of Orange ***News Release***

Public Information Office
Contact: Kostas Kalaitzidis, 657-622-7097
PIO@occourts.org

Oct. 8, 2026

Superior Court Judge Receives Orange County Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates Award

Santa Ana, CA –The Orange County Chapter of ABOTA- the American Board of Trial Advocates- selected Orange County Superior Court **Judge H. Shaina Colover** as its 2026 Judge of the Year. The award was presented on Oct. 7, 2026, during the Orange County ABOTA Judges' Night event.

ABOTA's focus is on elevating the standards of integrity, honor, and civility in the legal profession, promoting and protecting the right to trial by jury, and preserving the independence of the judiciary.



"To be recognized by Orange County ABOTA as its Trial Judge of the Year is a tremendous honor, made even more meaningful by the confidence of advocates from both sides of the Bar, and our shared commitment to the fair and impartial administration of justice," said Judge Colover

"This award shines a light on our judicial officers' hard work to provide fair and equitable access to justice for all Orange County residents," said Orange County Superior Court Presiding Judge Sheila F. Hanson.

Judge H. Shaina Colover took the Bench in 2018 after nearly 20 years as a civil litigator. She started her career at the business litigation defense firm Freitas, McCarthy, MacMahon & Keating in Northern California handling banking, city municipality, business and insurance defense. She then returned to Southern California where she practiced law with her father, long-time plaintiff's attorney and ABOTA member Ronald B. Schwartz, handling a variety of significant product liability, personal injury, and consumer related cases, including high-profile sexual abuse matters. She is a former President of the Orange County Trial Lawyers Association and served as a chair of the Orange County Bar Association Education Committee before taking the bench. She currently sits on the Unlimited Civil Panel at the Central Justice Center in Santa Ana, where her caseload includes a wide array of civil and business matters, including the recent wrongful death case, *Skaggs v. Angels Baseball, Inc.*, that resolved after extensive motion practice and a 2-month jury trial in her courtroom.

Visit Our Web Site: www.occourts.org

Superior Court of California, County of Orange • 700 Civic Center Drive West • Santa Ana, CA 92701