

**Hon. Sherri L. Honer Biography**  
**(9/1/2022)**

**Appointment and Judicial Assignments:**

Judge Sherri L. Honer was appointed to the California Superior Court, County of Orange on September 6, 2013 by Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr.

- From September 2013 to December 2014, she was assigned to a criminal open trial court where she presided over misdemeanor jury trials, preliminary hearings, motions, and felony trials as needed.
- From January 2015 to March 2018, she was assigned to family law where she presided over a direct calendar.
- From April 2018 to August 2018, she was temporarily assigned to juvenile dependency.
- From September 2018 to the February 2022, she was assigned to the civil panel, handling civil harassment and workplace violence restraining orders, unlawful detainer, Labor Commissioner and civil citation appeals, post judgment enforcement matters, and limited, and occasionally unlimited, civil matters, including jury trials.
- As of February 2022, Judge Honer requested to return to the family law panel and has been assigned to the panel from February 2022 to the present.

**Education and Honors:**

Judge Honer graduated Valedictorian and *summa cum laude* from Western State University, College of Law in May 1995. She served as Executive Editor and Associate Planning Editor of the *Western State University, Journal of Law* and was a contributing writer to the *OCBA Law and Motion Manual*. She was the recipient of 10 American Jurisprudence Awards, as well as the Best Team Oralist award for Moot Court and the President's Award for Outstanding Community Service. Prior to graduating law school, Judge Honer worked as a judicial extern for the California Court of Appeal in Santa Ana for Justice Edward Wallin (ret.).

Judge Honer also attended Pepperdine University, School of Law's Straus Institute for Alternative Dispute Resolution (2005-2009). She completed numerous courses in dispute resolution, conflict resolution, and negotiation.

**Prior Non-Judicial Legal Experience:**

Prior to her appointment to the bench, Judge Honer worked as a senior legal research attorney and coordinating attorney with the California Superior Court, County of Orange (2004-2011). As a senior research attorney, Judge Honer conducted extensive legal research and provided the court with written analysis and recommended rulings on thousands of civil law and motion matters. She also regularly served as a temporary judge on over 600 law and motion matters, including dispositive motions. While

working as a research attorney, she frequently was invited to speak on the topic of civil law and motion.

During her non-research attorney years, Judge Honer practiced both civil and criminal law while working as a solo practitioner (2000-2003) and practiced as a civil litigator for Frank P. Barbaro & Associates (2011-2013), Horton, Barbaro & Reilly (2003-2004), and Callahan, McCune & Willis, LLP (1996-1997, 1998-2000). As a civil trial and appellate attorney, she represented both plaintiffs and defendants. Her areas of practice included, but were not limited to, personal injury, premise liability, employment, class action wage and hour, and civil rights. While at Horton, Barbaro & Riley and Callahan, McCune & Willis LLP, she also supervised the firms' law and motion departments.

She obtained two, seven figure jury verdicts, and two published appellate opinions - *Lockley v. Law Office of Cantrell, Green, Pekich, Cruz & McCort* (2001) 91 Cal.App.4<sup>th</sup> 875, and *Rodriguez v. INS* (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1996) 98 F.3d 416. The latter appellate opinion was argued while Judge Honer was in her last year of law school, and in a footnote to the opinion, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals noted that the case was briefed and argued with excellence.

While at Callahan, McCune & Willis, LLP, Judge Honer received her first seven figure jury verdict representing a child victim of sexual molestation. As a result of the case, she was responsible for drafting legislation with respect to disclosure requirements in home, licensed daycare facilities, which was signed into law by Governor Gray Davis (former Health & Safety Code, § 1596.8712). The case and legislation prompted the Orange County Register to conduct an in-depth investigation into licensing of daycare facilities in the state and resulted in additional legislation being passed.

With respect to her criminal law experience, Judge Honer worked for a brief time for the Orange County District Attorney's Office during the early part of her legal career (1997-1998), where she conducted a number of juvenile misdemeanor and felony trials, including several felony sexual assault trials. While working as a solo practitioner, she served as a panel attorney for Appellate Defenders, Inc., drafting criminal appeals. In 2010, she took a two-month leave of absence from the court to volunteer for the Orange County District Attorney's Office Trial Attorney Participation (TAP) program, where she conducted numerous preliminary hearings and a jury trial.

### **Committees/Memberships:**

Judge Honer is a member and current co-chair of the California Judges Association's (CJA) Mindfulness and Wellness Committee and is a faculty member with the Center for Judicial Education and Research (CJER). She also has served as an instructor for the Superior Court, Orange County, teaching Ethics for Temporary Judges. She has been a frequent presenter for the local bar associations and law schools on the topics of civil law and motion, family law, and civil law.

Since her appointment, Judge Honer has served on the following court committees:

- Temporary Judge Committee (2013 to present); prior to her appointment to the bench and while working as a court research attorney, Judge Honer was appointed to the committee by the presiding judge for two, three-year terms.
- Judicial Extern Committee (2018 to present)
- Community Outreach Committee (2019 to present; 2014 when informal committee)
- Rules and Forms Committee (2020 to present)
- Collaborative Court Judges Committee (2020 to present)
- Grand Jury Recruitment/Selection Committee (2013 to 2017)
- Employee Appreciation Committee (2013 to 2014)

She has been a member of the Robert A. Banyard Inn of Court since 1996 and was president in 2021/2022. She was a recipient of the Inn's Judicial Civility Award (2016-2017), in which she was recognized for meeting the judiciary's highest tradition of civility and professionalism. She regularly volunteers for the Constitutional Rights Foundation's Mock Trial Competition and with the OCBA Community Outreach Committee as a Mercy House volunteer.

In addition to the above, Judge Honer has served as the judicial liaison for the Orange County Bar Association's (OCBA's) Community Outreach Committee. Prior to her appointment to the bench, she served as the OCBA Community Outreach Committee co-chair for three years (2011-2013) and served as a co-chair on the Subcommittee on Homelessness (2010).

**Invited Speaker:**

- NBI Judicial Forum – Civil Court Judicial Forum (December 2019)
- NBI Judicial Forum - Annual Family Court Judicial Forum (2017)
- OCBA Family Law Section (2017)
- OCBA College of Trial Advocacy – Law and Motion (2011, 2013, 2015)
- OCBA Mentor on Demand (2014)
- Orange County Trial Lawyers Association (OCTLA) (2011, 2014)
- Western State University, College of Law
- William P. Gray – Legion Lex Inn of Court
- OCBA Business Litigation Section.