



John M. Bentley
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John M. Bentley has practiced law for more than 45 years, during which time he has emphasized trial work. His experience has included trials in a variety of fields with a major emphasis during that time on professional liability. Mr. Bentley has defended insurance companies, lawyers, doctors and medical care facilities, including all of the major hospitals in San Mateo County and many in the Bay Area counties. He also has extensive experience in medical arbitration proceedings and has sat as the presiding hearing officer in staff privilege hearings. He currently emphasizes discovery, analysis and trial of complex multi-site environmental insurance coverage litigation.

Mr. Bentley has participated as a panelist and lecturer before professional groups of doctors, nurses and attorneys. He has also lectured on insurance law at Golden Gate College and has been a member of the faculty at the Hastings College of Advocacy.

He received his law degree from the University of San Francisco School of Law in 1955 after attending that same University as an undergraduate where he was a member of the Alpha Sigma Nu, the National Jesuit Honor Society.

Mr. Bentley is a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, a fellow of the International Academy of Trial Lawyers, a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates, a Diplomate of the American Board of Professional Liability Attorneys, the International Association of Insurance Counsel, Federation of Defense and Corporate Counsel (FDCC), Association of Defense Counsel of Northern California, The American Bar Association, the San Mateo Bar Association.

Practice Areas

- ▣ Catastrophic/Personal Injury
- ▣ Construction
- ▣ Environmental
- ▣ Insurance Services
- ▣ Product Liability
- ▣ Professional Liability
- ▣ Toxic Tort

Education

- University of San Francisco School of Law, 1955 J.D.

Court Admissions

- California
- Supreme Court of the United States
- US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit
- US Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals
- USDC: Central District of California
- USDC: Eastern District of California
- USDC: Northern District of California
- USDC: Southern District of California

Memberships & Associations

- American Bar Association (ABA)
- American Board of Professional Liability Attorneys (ABPLA)
- American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA)
- American College of Trial Lawyers
- Association of Defense Counsel of Northern California and Nevada (ADC)
- Federation of Defense and Corporate Counsel (FDCC)
- International Academy of Trial Lawyers
- San Mateo County Bar Association
- State Bar of California
- Supreme Court of the United States
- US Courts for the Ninth District

Representative Experience

Practice Area: Accountants, Bad Faith, Directors & Officers, Environmental, Fraud, Insurance Agents and Brokers, Insurance Services, Lawyers, Product Liability, Professional Liability, Real Estate Agents and Brokers, Toxic Tort

Key Issues: Bad Faith

Suit for coverage and defense of more than one hundred sites involving large claims for pollution. Some sites also involved claims of bad faith. Sites grouped and tried seriatim to separate juries as separate trials over two and a half years.