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Gregory E. Stone
Founding Partner

Gregory E. Stone, *Founding Partner*, is a skilled negotiator, mediator and trial attorney. While an overwhelming number of his cases are resolved prior to trial, Greg has built a reputation for achieving outstanding trial results for his clients. He has tried over 65 jury trials to verdict throughout Los Angeles, Ventura, Kern, Orange, and San Bernardino counties.

Greg has been recognized as a “Southern California Super Lawyer” by his peers in Los Angeles Magazine, Law & Politics Media, Inc., and Super Lawyer publications.

As a third generation resident of Los Angeles, Greg has deep roots in the Los Angeles. His mother, grandmother, and several of his great aunts and uncles were all born, raised, and still reside in Los Angeles.

Greg prides himself on solving problems for others and makes himself available to his many repeat clients for an array of issues. He thinks of himself as a problem-solving quarterback; either he handles a particular situation, or if he cannot, for whatever reason, he makes sure his clients are fully protected by helping to secure the proper professionals to fulfill their needs and accomplish their goals. Greg makes sure he refers clients to the experts he would want representing him if he were in a similar situation. If a case cannot get resolved, Greg has proven to be more than capable to taking the matter to trial.

Greg has evolved into a well-rounded lawyer. He has handled civil rights cases, instances of gender discrimination, insurance defense, personal injury lawsuits,

business disputes, and even criminal matters. He enjoys mediating cases and resolving disputes. Greg has said, "*Practice of law is a business, but it is a profession first.*"

Clients include, but are not limited to, small to medium sized businesses and their owners, supermarket chains, retail stores, commercial carriers, municipalities, police departments, health clubs, and real estate property management companies.

He also represents clients in litigation involving contractual disputes, security guard negligence/excessive force cases, premises liability, civil rights and employment litigation. He has represented many defendants in high-profile civil rights actions in state and federal courts, and has successfully defended many police officers from several different departments throughout Southern California.

Greg has been known for resolving cases very early, sometimes even before they really get started. He believes that litigation, and especially trial, should be the last resort. As a business owner, Greg appreciates the economics associated with litigation and as an experienced litigator, he recognizes the emotional element often associated with a case. He carries this philosophy into his practice as a mediator for the Los Angeles County Superior Court as well.

Although an attorney can never guarantee the outcome of a trial, when Greg does try cases, he does not consider losing an option.

Greg is admitted to practice before all the state courts in California; the United States District Court, California; the U.S. District Court, the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals; and the United States Supreme Court.

AREAS OF PRACTICE

- Commercial Business Litigation
- Employment
- Civil Rights
- Tort & Premises Liability
- Excessive Force Cases Against Police Officers and Security Guards

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

- Represents both Lessors and Lessees in Commercial Lease disputes.
- Successfully defended a national retailer in defense of a trademark infringement case involving allegations of violations of the *Lanham Act* and various other allegations including claims for statutory penalties and punitive damages.
- Secured numerous defense jury verdicts for national corporate clients and local businesses in cases involving civil rights violations; slip, trip and falls; security guard negligence (including a three-week jury trial televised live on Court TV); wrongful termination involving allegations of discrimination and harassment; employment and contract disputes.
- Defended and secured a multi-million dollar judgment in favor of a municipality on a high profile contract dispute with elements of fraud and deceit.

- Defended and recovered clients' attorney's fees in binding arbitrations, bench trials and jury trial involving construction defects and general breach of contract claims.
- Successfully defended through jury trial and appeal many police officers and municipalities from different counties and cities throughout Southern California on allegations of civil rights, excessive force and malicious prosecution claims.
- Frequently represents business clients in an array of areas including claims for breach of contract, sexual harassment, discrimination, breach of fiduciary duty, fraud and deceit, interference with prospective economic advantage, failure to pay brokers' commissions, professional negligence and minority and majority shareholder disputes.

MEDIA AND PUBLICATIONS

Greg has authored articles; lectured on various legal topics; and has been featured on television, including the following:

- **Southern California Super Lawyer:** Greg has been recognized as a by his peers in *Los Angeles Magazine*, *Law & Politics Media, Inc.*, and *Super Lawyer* (2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013).
- **AV Rated** in *Martindale-Hubbell's Bar Register of Preeminent Lawyers* and has inured the highest rating ("AV") for legal ability and ethics by *Martindale-Hubbell* since 1989.
- **Mediator** for the Los Angeles Superior Court for the last ten years.
- **American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA)**, After about seven years of practicing (1997), Greg was admitted into the prestigious as one—if not the—youngest member at the time
- **Court TV:** In a case featured on this television program and venued in Downtown Los Angeles (Central Civil West), Mr. Stone obtained a complete defense verdict on behalf a private security officer and his corporate, national retailer employer in a racial discrimination/excessive force jury trial. Plaintiff appealed. Mr. Stone prepared the Appellate Brief, presented oral arguments, and the Court of Appeal affirmed the defense jury verdict.
- **Los Angeles Daily Journal:** "Defense Attorney is Batting a Thousand"
- Mr. Stone was featured as a litigator to watch. The focus of the article was on his outstanding trial record.
- **Star Magazine.** Featured for his work as counsel for celebrity bodyguard.
- **National Business Institute**, Association of Southern California Defense Counsel and San Fernando Valley Bar Association. He has been a keynote speaker for several State Bar approved seminars on behalf of many organizations, including a seminar that was attended exclusively by court-appointed and private mediators. This seminar was geared toward providing mediators with an attorney's perspective on the mediation process.
- Greg has consistently had his successful jury verdicts published in the *Daily Journal: Verdicts and Settlements* publication every year since 1989.
- Greg has been an invited presenter at many national retailers' corporate headquarters on an array of topics including general litigation matters; expert

witness retention; loss prevention; premises liability; preparing for and what to expect when testifying at trial and/or deposition.

- **Author** for the *Los Angeles Daily Journal* and others including, but not limited to:

Unforeseeable Misfortune

Courthouse Debut

Avoiding Pitfalls

Tips for an Enjoyable Deposition

Talk is Cheap

How Do I Get Out of This?

Trying a Premises Liability Case in California

*Winning Your First Civil Jury Trial in California:
What They Didn't Teach You in Law School*

- **Hall of Fame Inductee:** *University of Arizona - The Arizona Daily Wildcat (2005)*
Inductee class included Dan Hicks national TV sports broadcaster and Scott Carter, Executive Producer of Real Time with Bill Mahr.

EDUCATION

- Bachelor of Arts, Business, University of Arizona
- Juris Doctorate, Southwestern University School of Law, Los Angeles
- Managing Editor, *Southwestern University Law Review*

MEMBERSHIPS AND ACTIVITIES:

- American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA)
- State Bar of California
- Los Angeles County Bar Association
- San Fernando Valley Bar Association

PERSONAL:

Greg is a third generation Los Angeles native. He enjoys golf, basketball, running, softball, flag football and spending time with friends and family.