

John B. Campbell
Owner/Founder

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John B. Campbell is the Senior Partner and founder of the Campbell Law Group ("CLG"). Mr. Campbell is an experienced trial lawyer and has extensive experience in commercial litigation and insurance defense matters. He was born in Boston, Massachusetts in 1948 and is licensed to practice law in the States of California, Nevada, Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Mr. Campbell has been admitted to practice before all of the Federal Courts in California and Nevada; he has also been admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court. Mr. Campbell graduated from Harvard University, with a degree in Psychology in 1970. He received his Juris Doctorate from Boston College Law School in 1973.

From 1973-1977, Mr. Campbell served as a Lieutenant in the United States Navy JAG Corps, specializing in criminal litigation. While serving first with the Marine Corps in Southeast Asia, and then with the Navy in San Diego, Mr. Campbell prosecuted and defended over 150 general and special court-martials that were tried to completion. In civil practice, Mr. Campbell has tried over 30 complex civil jury trials. Many of those trials involved millions of dollars of exposure. Mr. Campbell has also handled hundreds of binding and non-binding arbitration and mediation proceedings.

Over the past several years, Mr. Campbell has been recognized as a "Top Lawyer in San Diego" – Highest in Ethical Standards & Professional Excellence. For example, see the recent award and article concerning Mr. Campbell in the March 2015 edition of San Diego Magazine. Mr. Campbell has maintained the highest "AV" rating for attorneys – as awarded by the national rating society Martindale Hubbell – since approximately 1983. In addition to his career-long litigation practice, Mr. Campbell has provided general business advice/transactional assistance to numerous San Diego businesses – and Mr. Campbell is general counsel to various medical professionals.

Before forming CLG, Mr. Campbell was a founding partner of the San Diego firm of Hughes & Campbell (1983-1990). Before that, Mr. Campbell was a partner with the commercial litigation firm of Sullivan & Jones (1977-1983). Since 1978, Mr. Campbell has specialized in the representation of medical practitioners, restaurant clients; real estate clients; clients involved in construction litigation; insurance carrier clients – for the defense of professional malpractice cases, high-exposure catastrophic injury cases, construction defect cases, insurance bad faith, subrogation and declaratory relief cases; and clients who were involved in other non-insured complex litigation matters (i.e., involving unfair competition/antitrust; fraud; and breach of contract issues).

Mr. Campbell has developed expertise in the representation of buyers/sellers/real estate agents in residential real estate transactions – including the sale of residential/commercial properties with undisclosed defects. Mr. Campbell provides advice and litigation services in connection with such disputes. Mr. Campbell also provides such services to his clients involved in the purchase of commercial and/or industrial real estate.

Mr. Campbell has also successfully represented numerous health care professionals during his legal career – with respect to licensing issues; malpractice claims; forming and selling medical practices; and other aspects of compliance as it regards the ever-changing rules and regulations dealing with health care today – and presently serves as General Counsel for one medical group.

For more than 30 years of his professional practice, Mr. Campbell has represented developers/general contractors/subcontractors/design professionals in various litigated matters involving residential, commercial and/or industrial properties. As a recognized insurance defense professional in construction defect claims,

Mr. Campbell has successfully addressed and handled just about every construction dispute possible – as well as claims involving the purchase and sale of California real estate.

AREAS OF LEGAL EXPERTISE:

- All Forms of Insurance Litigation
- Real Estate Transactions
- Other Non-Insured Disputes and/or Transactional Work in the fields of Real Estate and/or Construction
- Complex Civil Lawsuits involving Indemnity/Contribution/Subrogation – and all forms of Declaratory Relief; Unfair Competition/Antitrust/Fraud/ Breach of Contract Cases; Mass Torts and Class Action Litigation
- Intellectual Property Disputes
- Restaurant/Food Law
- Acting as General Counsel for various businesses and professional organizations – including medical corporations – as it regards corporate compliance/employment/regulations. Mr. Campbell is literally "on call" to numerous health care practitioners for their day-to-day legal needs.

DETAILS RE PAST CIVIL LITIGATION/TRIAL EXPERIENCE:

Mr. Campbell has literally handled thousands of diverse insurance engagements over the past 40-plus years. Nevertheless, because of his initial background in commercial litigation, Mr. Campbell's practice has always included private clients, who were involved in litigation that was not covered by insurance. As noted above, Mr. Campbell has tried over 30 complex civil jury trials since his release from active duty in the United States Navy's JAG Corps. Those trials have involved complex business fraud cases; food-borne disease cases for restaurant clients; multi-million dollar personal injury claims; professional malpractice/errors & omissions claims (i.e., defending doctors/health care professionals/lawyers/architects/engineers/real estate brokers/other professionals); representation of buyers and sellers of residential real estate at mediation/arbitration as provided for in most real estate purchase contracts; and construction defect/construction contract cases.

Recently, Mr. Campbell tried two high-exposure personal injury cases – where the damages that were demanded by counsel for plaintiffs in each of those two jury trials were between \$6,000,000-\$10,000,000. Both trials (Hillyer and Hirsch) resulted in "defense wins" – in that the jury returned verdicts (\$325,000 in Hillyer; \$1,100,000 in Hirsch) that were close to what had been offered to plaintiffs' counsel before the start of those two very difficult trials.

Mr. Campbell also recently prevailed in groundwater-contamination environmental cases against two international oil companies – involving the resulting contamination to four industrial properties that were located just south of the subject L.A. gasoline terminal. The cases were vigorously defended by the two involved oil companies – before a substantial amount was paid to the owners of those four industrial buildings for the resulting diminution in value to their properties – in a confidential settlement agreement.

Mr. Campbell recently prevailed in a complex business fraud trial – involving two former business partners in the manufactured home industry. In addition to substantial compensatory damages, CLG’s client was also awarded prevailing party attorneys’ fees and punitive damages against the defendants in that action. That action was tried to the judge alone (the Honorable Jay Bloom) – in order to save both sides the substantial trial costs of what would have otherwise been a six-week (or more) jury trial.

Mr. Campbell has represented purchasers of residential real estate who did not receive complete disclosures of known adverse conditions affecting the subject property. In fact, one of Mr. Campbell's clients was able to rescind/give-back to the seller the troubled real estate – and get back all of her money and related expense, almost one year after the close of escrow.

Mr. Campbell recently settled a food-borne illness exposure for one of CLG’s restaurant clients. Mr. Campbell is adept in settling cases that need to be settled – and is adept at economically trying those cases that cannot be settled. In this same regard, one of CLG’s clients was recently named in a class action lawsuit – that Mr. Campbell was successfully able to settle in principle within two weeks of the filing date – in order to save all concerned time/money/effort.

In addition to the insurance expertise that has been developed by CLG – CLG also works with numerous restaurant clients – handling all related restaurant work: food safety certification and employee training under the California Retail Food Code – including the formulation and amendment of HACCP plans; general liability and property damage issues/insurance for restaurants; injuries resulting from the condition of food served to customers – i.e., food-borne disease litigation (the Mexicali Rose test); maintaining a safe environment/restaurant premises liability – including unexpected conduct by third parties; use of video technologies in restaurants; emergency preparedness plans; Cal-OSHA safety standards; ADA litigation – avoiding discrimination claims against individuals with disabilities; and creation of standard form contracts for vendors and suppliers.

APPELLATE EXPERIENCE:

Mr. Campbell has also been involved in the following published appellate decisions: Smoketree-Lake Murray, Ltd. v. Mills Concrete Construction Company, Inc. (1991) 234 Cal.App.3d 1724, 286 Cal.Rptr. 435; Shaffer v. Debbas (1993) 17 Cal.App.4th 33; 21 Cal.Rptr.2d 110; Alcala Company, Inc. v. Superior Court (1996) 49 Cal.App.4th 1308, 57 Cal.Rptr.2d 349; University Canyon Homeowner Association v. Collins Development Company, et al. (2000) 81 Cal.App.4th 771, 97 Cal.Rptr.2d 83. Mr. Campbell has been involved in the following an published appellate opinions: Noon v. U.S.A. Track & Field, et al. (1998); Smith, et al. v. San Dieguito Unified High School District, et al. (2001); and Hirsch, et al. v. Pacific Crematorium, Inc., et al. (2006).

Because of all of the related expenses that are unfortunately part of today’s legal proceedings, Mr. Campbell and his clients have always tried to first "prevail" by means of successful/fair settlements – that are achieved during the mediation process. Mr. Campbell is adept at successfully mediating cases – so that CLG’s clients have more than one opportunity to successfully resolve their claims before the start of an expensive trial proceeding. Nevertheless, when the expense of trial is necessary and cannot be avoided, Mr. Campbell’s clients do very well.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND/OR ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Rated "AV" (very high to pre-eminent legal ability and ethics) from Martindale-Hubbell

- Recognized as “Top Lawyer in San Diego” – Highest in Ethical Standards & Professional Excellence – in 2013
- American Bar Association
- Defense Research Institute
- Association of Southern California Defense Lawyers
- San Diego Defense Lawyers
- San Diego County Bar Association
- Member, State Bar of California
- Member, State Bar of Nevada (presently on civil inactive list)
- Member, State Bar of Massachusetts (presently on civil inactive list)
- Member, State Bar of Rhode Island (presently on civil inactive list)
- Member, San Diego Building Industry Association
- Member, San Diego County Associated General Contractors

PUBLICATIONS/SEMINARS/BUSINESS EXPERIENCE:

Mr. Campbell has conducted seminars as an expert for the National Business Institute (NBI). He has given presentations to various groups in San Diego concerning construction/real estate litigation. Mr. Campbell has been and is an officer and/or director of several small companies in San Diego – to whom he provides business advice – – and acts as general counsel.