

## JAMS Grows Golden State Groups With Ex-Calif. Judges

By Jack Rodgers

*Law360 (November 18, 2024, 12:06 PM EST)* -- JAMS, the arbitration and dispute resolution service group, has hired a pair of former California judges who are bringing decades of experience from their time working both in private practice and serving on the Central District of California Los Angeles County Superior Court benches, to their new teams.

Former Judge Philip S. Gutierrez, who has more than 35 years of legal experience as both a trial lawyer and state and federal judge, will join JAMS' Los Angeles Resolution Center, while former Judge Lee R. Bogdanoff will join the group's Century City Resolution Center. JAMS announced their new roles last week.

Judge Bogdanoff was most recently a Los Angeles County Superior Court judge, where he presided over estate, trust, conservatorship and related civil matters. Judge Gutierrez spent about 17 years as a Central District of California judge, and from 2020 to 2024, served as chief judge there.

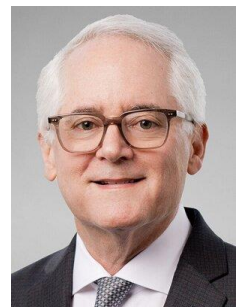
Judge Gutierrez will arbitrate, mediate and serve as a neutral evaluator and referee in civil rights, health care, intellectual property and a range of other matters, JAMS said. Judge Bogdanoff will mediate and arbitrate bankruptcy, business and commercial, as well as estate, probate and trust matters.

In an interview with Law360 Pulse on Monday, Judge Bogdanoff said that he stepped down from the bench to spend more time with his family, though he didn't have a plan to find another job immediately after retiring.

"But I wanted to stay involved in some fashion doing something that would utilize my experience, and this seemed like an ideal fit because it's something [where] I can set my own schedule and work on matters that are of interest to me," Judge Bogdanoff said. "I talked to a number of groups and just thought that this was ideal and decided to pursue it."

Judge Bogdanoff noted that with JAMS, he'll be doing insolvency-related mediation work and probate, which he said was a crossover of his experience in private practice and time on the bench.

Judge Gutierrez said never dreamed of working as a judge, but that whenever he's asked what inspired his career on the bench, he always remembers his mother.



Lee R. Bogdanoff



Philip S. Gutierrez

"She was a courtroom clerk," he said. "Since I was six years old, she would take me to court to watch proceedings. I think my mother always wanted me to be a district court judge, and she was a great mother and lead me to believe it was my idea."

He added that it was an honor and a blessing to have the opportunity to serve on both state and federal courts.

"Surely, the cases interesting and important," Judge Gutierrez said. "However, what was best about my career was the chance to work with wonderful people and make lifelong friends."

Judge Gutierrez wanted to move to JAMS after his time on the bench, in part to work with some of his former colleagues, he said, like Judge Michael R. Wilner, who joined the JAMS team in Los Angeles in September.

JAMS additions in California are part of its continued focus on hiring former judges and legal experts across the country.

Judge Gutierrez's former Central District of California colleagues move to JAMS as part of that expansion made him want to join the group. Those additions include Judge James Otero, who joined the Los Angeles team in 2020, and Judge Jay Gandhi, who joined JAMS from the Central District of California Bench in 2018, according to the group's website.

Some other recent JAMS additions include the former managing member of Squires International Law PLLC, Gilbert K. Squires, who joined the dispute resolution group in October in Miami and hired Sylvia Hinds-Radix, a former New York State Supreme Court Justice, that same month.

Judge Bogdanoff was appointed to the Los Angeles Superior Court by Gov. Gavin Newsom in 2020. Before being seated, Judge Bogdanoff spent over 18 years as the managing partner of Klee Tuchin Bogdanoff & Stern LLP, then spent another two and a half years as an of counsel with that firm, according to his LinkedIn profile.

JAMS noted that Bogdanoff spent over 30 years in private practice, working on bankruptcy, reorganization and business commercial matters. He spent 14 years before joining Klee Tuchin as a Stutman Treister & Glatt shareholder, according to his LinkedIn profile.

Kimberly Taylor, JAMS' CEO and president, said in a statement that Judge Bogdanoff's reputation for "thorough case preparation and aptitude for resolving disputes," made him a great addition to its bench of dispute resolution experts. JAMS announced in September that Taylor would become its new CEO.

"His incredible depth of experience, combined with his keen eye for understanding the details and nuances of complicated legal matters, sets him apart as a practitioner, and we look forward to the perspective he will bring to our JAMS panel," Taylor said.

Judge Gutierrez was a founding member of the U.S. District Court's Patent Pilot Program on the Central District of California bench, a program that helped enhance patent case expertise by judges with specialized interest and knowledge of that intellectual property law.

Judge Gutierrez spent a decade as a trial lawyer to begin his career, where he practiced complex

business litigation, JAMS said. He was first appointed to the Whittier Municipal Court in 1997 and served through the unification of the Los Angeles Court System in 2000 as a Superior Court Judge until 2007.

In 2007, Judge Gutierrez was nominated to the Central District of California bench by former President George W. Bush.

Taylor also lauded Judge Gutierrez's experience and reputation in the Southern California legal community, "as a leader and jurist deeply committed to justice and problem-solving in complex cases," in several practice areas.

"We are proud to welcome him to our JAMS panel and believe his experience and perspective will be tremendous assets," she said.

Judge Gutierrez was not immediately available to comment on his new role Monday.

--Additional reporting by James Mills, Emily Johnson, Tiffany Hu and Andrea Keckley. Editing by Alyssa Miller.