



HON. STEPHEN M. PULIDO (RET.)

**Family Law Mediations,
Private Trials, Consultations**



For more than four decades, Hon. Stephen Pulido (Ret.) has been a steadfast presence in the legal community, known for his fairness, depth of knowledge, and ability to navigate even the most complex disputes. With 46 years in the legal profession, including 18 years on the Alameda County Superior Court bench and 28 years as a practicing attorney, he has built a career rooted in justice, service, and a deep understanding of Family Law.

Judge Pulido's path to the bench was one shaped by an unwavering commitment to helping people through some of the most difficult moments of their lives. As a Family Law attorney, he spent nearly three decades representing clients facing personal and legal upheaval, earning their trust with his pragmatic, compassionate approach to resolving disputes. He understood the emotional toll of family legal matters and was known for his ability to guide his clients with clarity and honesty. His practice thrived because of this reputation, with high-profile clients - including professional athletes, lawyers, and even judges - seeking his counsel.

In 2007, he brought his wealth of experience to the Alameda County Superior Court, where he would spend the next 18 years presiding over Family Law, Civil, and Juvenile Dependency matters. He quickly rose to leadership positions, serving as both Supervising and Presiding Judge of Family Law, as well as Chief Supervising Judge of Civil. Throughout his judicial career, he earned a reputation as a level-headed, knowledgeable, and fair-minded jurist who ran a well-organized courtroom, respected the time of attorneys, and had a deep understanding of the complexities of Family Law.

His ability to manage cases efficiently while maintaining a keen sensitivity to the human side of litigation has made him a popular judge for some of the most challenging and high-profile cases. During his tenure on the bench, he handled significant matters, including the Mills College case regarding its merger with Eastern College in Boston and the Jahi McMath v. Children's Hospital personal injury/wrongful death case. Judges and attorneys alike respected his skill in managing high-stakes disputes with both decisiveness and diplomacy.

Even in the most challenging times, Judge Pulido remained steadfast in his commitment to the legal system. During the COVID-19 pandemic, he conducted nine remote jury trials, earning the Special Recognition Award from the San Francisco Trial Lawyers Association (SFTLA) in 2021 for "keeping justice alive." His dedication to justice and public service has been recognized with numerous honors, including the Distinguished Service Award from the Alameda County Bar Association (ACBA) in 2025, the 18 Years of Service Award from the Alameda County Superior Court in 2024, and multiple Appreciation Awards from the Alameda County Family Law Association for his unwavering support of families in the county. His leadership in expanding access to justice was further acknowledged with the Pro Bono Leadership Award from ACBA in 2013, recognizing his efforts to expand access to justice for low-income residents.

Beyond the courtroom, Judge Pulido has been deeply committed to mentorship, legal education, and public service, shaping the next generation of legal professionals and fostering civic engagement. For over two decades, he has served as a Presiding Judge in the Philip Harley/Alameda County Mock Trial Competition and an instructor for the ACBA's "Family Law Boot Camp," mentoring young advocates and new attorneys. His dedication extended to training new judges and strengthening the judiciary. Before taking the bench, he served as a Trustee and President of the Pleasanton Unified School District Board (2003–2007), reinforcing his passion for education. He continued this work through the "Judges in the Classroom" program and the ACBA/Alameda County Superior Court Civics Program, ensuring students gained a deeper understanding of the legal system. Whether in the courtroom or the classroom, he has remained dedicated to building a more informed and engaged legal community.

At the core of Judge Pulido's approach to dispute resolution is his ability to connect with people. Whether working with litigants, attorneys, or fellow judges, he prioritizes fairness, civility, and clear communication. His philosophy in mediation and settlement conferences is built on honest dialogue and practical solutions. When parties reach an impasse, he brings them back to the reality of their situation, discussing the strengths

and weaknesses of their cases with attorneys and litigants alike. He does not give false hope or unrealistic expectations, but instead, guides them toward a resolution that acknowledges both the legal and emotional complexities of their dispute. As a neutral, Judge Pulido remains deeply committed to helping people resolve disputes efficiently and fairly. His extensive experience, meticulous preparation, and balanced approach, combining rigorous legal analysis with practical insight, contribute to his ability to bring even the most contentious cases to resolution.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Alameda County Superior Court | 2007 -2025

Superior Court Judge

- Presided over Family Law, Civil Direct Calendar, and Juvenile Dependency matters.
- Served as Presiding Judge, Family Law (2010-2014), Chief Supervising Judge, Civil (2018-2019), and Supervising Judge, Family Law (2022-2024).
- Chaired multiple committees, including Family Law, Personnel, Civil, Community Outreach, Security, and Jury Committees.
- Led settlement conferences and mediations, resolving complex disputes efficiently.
- Conducted nine remote jury trials during the pandemic, earning a Special Recognition Award from the San Francisco Trial Lawyers Association (2021) for “keeping justice alive.”

Law Offices of Stephen M. Pulido | 1998-2007

Founder & Principal Attorney

- Specialized in Family Law, representing high-profile clients, including athletes, attorneys, and judges.
- Managed a thriving legal practice for nearly a decade, focusing on litigation and dispute resolution.

Law Offices of Browner, Pulido & Sheehan | 1978-1998

Partner

- Handled complex family law matters, including high-asset divorces, child custody disputes, and spousal support cases.

EDUCATION

- UC Law San Francisco (formerly Hastings College of the Law) | Juris Doctor, 1978
- University of California, Berkeley | Bachelor of Arts, Political Science, 1975

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS & COMMUNITY SERVICE

- School Board Trustee, Pleasanton Unified School District (2003-2007)
 - Served as Board President in final year.
- Member, Alameda County Bar Association & Earl Warren Inn of Courts
- Instructor, “Family Law Boot Camp,” Alameda County Bar Association
- Presiding Judge, Philip Harley/Alameda County Mock Trial Competition (20+ years)
- Participant, “Judges in the Classroom” & ACBA/Alameda County Superior Court Civics Program

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

- Distinguished Service Award, Alameda County Bar Association (2025)
- 18 Years of Service Award, Alameda County Superior Court (2024)
- Appreciation Award, Alameda County Family Law Association (2024 & 2014)
- Special Recognition Award, San Francisco Trial Lawyers Association (2021)
- Pro Bono Leadership Award, Alameda County Bar Association (2013)
- Recognition from East Bay Children’s Law Offices for commitment to foster children (2009)