

HOGE ■ FENTON



DENNIS S. ZELL

SHAREHOLDER, CHAIR - APPELLATE

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PRACTICE OVERVIEW

Dennis Zell is a highly accomplished attorney with over 25 years of civil litigation experience, including trial and appellate work in both California and Federal courts. Dennis' current trial practice consists mostly of real estate and trust litigation cases. He also accepts cases involving breach of contracts, zoning & land use, and free speech. Dennis' primary role at Hoge Fenton is serving as the Chair of the Appellate Practice Group where he oversees all appeals, amicus briefs, and writs.

BACKGROUND

Prior to joining Hoge Fenton, Dennis was a general practitioner at the Zell Law Firm and a senior litigation associate for Fox, Shjeflo, Hartley, & Babu, and Coddington, Hicks & Danforth, LLP.

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS/CLIENTS

- *Alliance for a Better Downtown Millbrae v. Wade* (2003) 108 Cal. App. 4th 123
- *Maldonado v. Harris* (9th Cir. 2004) 370 F. 3d 945, *cert. denied* (2005) 544 U.S. 968
- *Maldonado v. Kempton* (N.D. Cal. 2006) 422 F. Supp. 2d 1169 (Breyer, J.)
- *Maldonado v. Morales* (9th Cir. 2009) 556 F. 3d 1037, *cert. denied* (2010) 558 U.S.1158

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Dennis has been a member of the San Mateo Bar Association since 1999 and a member of American Business Trial Lawyers Association, Northern California since 2009. He has been a Coach for the San Mateo County Bar Association Mock Trial Program since 2004.

Dennis is currently a Board Director of the Peninsula Health Care District (a California Special District located in Burlingame), and a Director of the California Association of Health Care Districts located in Sacramento.

He served over 200,000 constituents on the San Francisco Peninsula as an elected public official. The district projects during his tenure include the construction of an \$80 million assisted living and memory care center, the establishment of a community dental center serving at-risk populations, the Teen Mental Health Initiative, numerous grants to community health organizations, pre-development of eight-acre Peninsula Wellness Community for seniors, and a home for developmentally disabled people. Dennis served five years as the Board treasurer and currently serves as the Chair of the Finance Committee of the district.

He has been an active member of the Burlingame Rotary Club since 2002 and was the chapter's President from 2010-2011.

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PRACTICE AREAS

Trust and Estate Litigation
Litigation and Dispute Resolution
Business Litigation
Mediation Practice
Real Estate & Land Use

EDUCATION

J.D., Golden Gate University, School of Law with a certification of Specialization in Litigation
B.A., Political Science, University of California, Los Angeles

ADMISSIONS

California State Bar
United States District Court, Northern District of California
United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit
United States District Court, Eastern District of California
United States District Court, Central District of California
United States District Court, Southern District of California
United States Supreme Court

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS & PUBLICATIONS

- [*Who Should You "Trust,?"*](#) Hoge Fenton, January 30, 2023
- *Chalk it up to traffic management*, San Francisco Daily Journal, November 8, 2022
- *Christian flag case eschews bright line test for "government speech,"* San Francisco Daily Journal, May 9, 2022
- [*FRAPs do not allow a district court to alter allocation of costs*](#), San Francisco Daily Journal, June 5, 2021
- [*Inheritance Issues: Documenting Trust Distributions*](#), Hoge Fenton, April 16, 2021
- [*Documenting Trust Distributions*](#), Webinar, Hoge Fenton, March 30, 2021
- [*Lessons Learned from Lawyers: Trust Dept. Risk Reduction Strategies*](#), Webinar, Hoge Fenton, July 23, 2020