



## THOMAS J. UMBERG



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### EDUCATION

- University of California, Hastings College of the Law, J.D., 1980
- Associate Editor, COMM/ENT, Communications and Entertainment Law Journal
- U.S. Army War College, M.S., 2000
- University of California, Los Angeles, B.A., cum laude, 1977
- Harvard University, Kennedy School of Government, Senior Executives in National Security Course, 1999

### BAR ADMISSIONS

- State Bar of California
- United States District Court, Central District of California, 1980

### PRACTICE AREAS

- Commercial Litigation
- Government & Regulatory
- Administrative Law
- Crisis Management

Thomas J. Umberg has extensive trial experience in both federal and state courts and has been recognized as a "Super Lawyer" for Southern California, an honor limited to only 5% of Southern California lawyers. He has also been selected for the prestigious publication "The Best Lawyers in America®" in commercial litigation.

As a federal criminal prosecutor, he tried numerous white collar and civil rights cases, including tax evasion schemes. These include "Uranium for Tax Dollars," "Marco Numismatics" (a nationwide fraud on seniors), and the "Westminster Cross Burning" cases.

Tom served three terms in the California Legislature, ending in 2006. As an assemblyman, he gained significant experience that continues to benefit his clients. Tom wrote 58 measures that were signed into law, including statutes involving election reform, campaign finance reform, white collar crime, mortgage fraud, telemarketing fraud, hate crimes, toxic waste cleanup, housing loans, Super Speed Rail Transport, and other transportation issues. He was also Chair of the Committee on Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials. In addition, from 2008 to 2014 Tom served in various capacities on the California High Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA), including as Chairman. (The CHSRA is responsible for developing the high speed rail system from Anaheim to San Francisco.)

In 1997, Tom was selected by President Clinton to serve as Deputy Director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP). In this capacity he was responsible for the development and coordination of United States policy to reduce the supply of illegal drugs, including negotiation and coordination with foreign governments to enhance US counter - drug intelligence and interdiction. He was the U.S. signatory to the Western Hemisphere Counter - Drug Cooperation Agreement signed in Montevideo, Uruguay, and led U.S. delegations to Colombia, Venezuela, Mexico, Brazil, and several other Latin - American countries. Tom also served as a senior member to the U.S./Mexico High Level Contact Group and as a member of the U.S. Delegation to the Summit of the Americas in Santiago, Chile. Tom has also been selected by members of the federal judiciary to be an attorney representative to the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference.

Tom is a retired colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve. He served with the 2nd Infantry Division in South Korea and with NATO forces in Italy, and as a paratrooper with the US Army Special Operations Command, US Army Special Warfare Center and the XVIIIth Airborne Corp. During his military career, he tried over 50 felony cases as a JAG officer in Korea, Italy, and the United States. Tom was recalled to active duty in 2004 as a war crimes prosecutor, and in 2009 as the Chief, Anti-Corruption, in Afghanistan.

In 2011, Tom was appointed Co-Chair of the U.S. State Department's Public Private Partnership for Justice Reform in Afghanistan.

Prior to joining Umberg Zipser LLP, Tom was a partner at Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP, and prior to that, the Orange County office managing partner at Morrison & Foerster, LLP.

Tom lives in Orange County with his wife, Brigadier General (ret.) Robin Umberg. They have three children – Tommy, Brett and Erin Umberg.

### HONORS & AWARDS

- The Best Lawyers in America®, 2008–2016
- Los Angeles Magazine, Southern California Super Lawyers
- The Bronze Star
- High Tech Legislator of the Year

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Orange County Bar Association, Member
- American Bar Association

## REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

- Represented Fortune 100 Energy Corporation in FERC and California Attorney General investigations. No fines or charges were assessed or filed.
- Represented Fiber Optic Corporation before California Coastal Commission, State Lands Commission and the US Army Corps of Engineers. Permits granted to install fiber optic cable off the California coast.
- Represented a major Defense Contractor in a Foreign Corrupt Practices investigation by the U.S. Department of Justice and the UK Ministry of Defence. The investigation concluded with no adverse consequences to the client.
- Represented the judges of the Orange County Superior Court when they successfully sued the county over trial court funding.
- Represented insurance company executive on 32 counts of mail and wire fraud. The executive was charged with providing kickbacks to others in the industry, insurance brokers, and agents in exchange for preferential sales treatment. After a nine week trial in federal court for the District of Arizona, the jury acquitted our client on all counts.
- Represented a major travel agency group investigated by the Attorneys General of California and Arizona for a pattern and practice of selling airline tickets to undocumented workers for illegal entry into the U.S. The matter was resolved without any criminal filing.
- Represented a major provider of dental services in California in a \$30 million dispute concerning the shareholder rights of the founder. Settled in mid-trial after our client won a series of favorable rulings.
- Represented an acute care hospital before a jury in Los Angeles Superior Court. The hospital was accused of firing a whistle blower and racial discrimination. The trial ended successfully for the defendant hospital with the plaintiff ordered to cover our client's costs.