

# **FEDERAL** **CIVIL PROCEDURE** **BEFORE TRIAL**

**NATIONAL EDITION**

Chapters 1-7

**Judge Karen L. Stevenson**  
United States Chief Magistrate Judge  
Central District of California

**James E. Fitzgerald**  
Fitzgerald Legal Consult, PC  
Los Angeles

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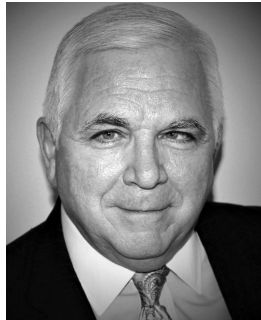


## ABOUT THE AUTHORS



**Hon. Karen L. Stevenson** was appointed Chief Magistrate Judge for the United States District Court for the Central District of California, effective January 1, 2023, and was appointed to the bench as U.S. Magistrate Judge on August 10, 2015. She is a member of the American Law Institute, a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation, and a former Executive Editor of the American Bar Association's Litigation News publication.

Judge Stevenson earned her J.D. *with distinction* at Stanford Law School. She earned an M.A. in European History at Magdalen College, Oxford University, England as a Rhodes Scholar and received her B.A. in History (Phi Beta Kappa) at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, where she was a Morehead Scholar.



**James E. Fitzgerald** is a mediator, arbitrator, and trial consultant and strategist with Fitzgerald Legal Consult, P.C., since 2021. From 1980 to 2020, Mr. Fitzgerald was a partner in several large national and international law firms and focused on trying cases in federal and state courts, specializing in business litigation, direct insurance and reinsurance complex coverage and bad faith, professional liability (including directors and officers), securities, and entertainment law matters. Mr. Fitzgerald has tried over 60 jury trials and dozens of

bench trials in state and federal courts around the country, has handled dozens of federal and state appeals, and handled dozens of arbitrations before various tribunals (including AAA, ARIAS (AIDA Reinsurance and Insurance Arbitration Society), JAMS, NASD/FINRA, and the Independent Film and Television Alliance). Mr. Fitzgerald is a Panelist on the AAA National Roster of Arbitrators, and is an ARIAS certified mediator and arbitrator. Mr. Fitzgerald has been a trial advocacy instructor for the National Institute for Trial Advocacy (NITA) for over 30 years, and a frequent lecturer, article writer, and presenter on trial strategy/advocacy and a variety of insurance/reinsurance issues during his career.

Mr. Fitzgerald received his J.D. from Fordham University Law School and his undergraduate business degree from Georgetown University. He has been licensed to practice by the California and New York Bars since 1983 and 1980, respectively.