



## Joseph A. Ferrentino

Partner

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“The only real lawyers are trial lawyers...” – Clarence Darrow. While Mr. Darrow’s opinion is extreme, trial lawyers are definitely a different breed – bold, calculated, and quick thinking; and Joe is a proven member. In his first jury trial twenty years ago, he recovered over \$25 million from the City of Anaheim due to its leaking reservoir. In a recent case, he represented over 500 student tenants in a class action and recovered reimbursement of rent for each of the students due to the owner’s violation of the Building Code.

Joe has been a proud member of the firm since 1995 and his civil litigation practice encompasses business, real estate, construction, and insurance litigation throughout California. He leads our construction litigation department and has counseled local and national developers and property owners in some of the most publicized construction cases, including the infamous Laguna Niguel landslide. Joe constantly strives to improve efficiencies in defending complex, multi-party litigation. He assists clients with simple business disputes as well as real estate litigation involving varying types of transactions gone awry. Over the years, Joe has recovered over \$50 million in defense, indemnity, and bad faith damages from a multitude of the largest insurance companies in the world.

Very few cases actually reach a jury, but Joe’s trial record and reputation provide him with added leverage to negotiate settlements that favor his clients. Settlement terms can be as tricky as trial strategies and Joe ensures to protect our client’s future interests.

### Services

- Business Litigation
- Construction Litigation
- Coverage & Bad Faith Litigation
- Real Estate Litigation
- Risk Avoidance, Transfer & Management

## **Awards & Recognition**

- Named Orange County “Attorney of the Year” by Best Lawyers, 2013
- Selected to the Southern California Super Lawyers list, 2004-2020, 2023
- Selected to the Orange County Best Lawyers list, Real Estate and Construction, 2012-2025
- Selected to the Super Lawyers list of Top 50 Orange County Lawyers, 2010, 2012 & 2013
- AV Pre-eminent Rating by Martindale-Hubbell Peer Review

## **Professional Affiliations**

- Richard Banyard Inn of Court
- Orange County Bar Association

## **Charitable & Civic Involvement**

Joe is a member of the Board of Directors for Human Options, a charity committed to a future in which every person experiences safe, healthy relationships, free from fear. He and his wife, Noelle, are also annual supporters of the City of Hope, the Multiple Sclerosis Society, Special Olympics, and the Cal Poly Business and Athletic Department. He is also a member of the Villa Park Rotary.

## **Admissions**

- California, 1992
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of California
- U.S. District Court, Central District of California
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of California
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of California

## **Education**

- Loyola Law School, Los Angeles(J.D., 1992)
  - St. Thomas More Honor Society
- California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo(B.S., 1989)

## **Matters**

### **Big Arbitration Award Resulting from Defective Grading**

Joe Ferrentino represented a national builder seeking reimbursement from a grader and sewer and water pipe installer following the development and repairs of sinkholes and damage to streets and gutter

### **Verdict against Subcontractor for Concrete Slab Defects**

After settling with twenty homeowners for multiple defects, including alleged damage to concrete slabs and foundations, Joe Ferrentino and Nathan Owens represented a national builder in the pursuit of

### **Pursuit of Seller of 19,000 Square Foot Home in Ranch Santa Fe for Fraud**

After purchasing a 19,000+ square foot home in beautiful Rancho Santa Fe, the purchaser discovered that the decks and arches in the home leaked severely. Joe Ferrentino represented the purchaser aga

### **Defeating Class Action Claims Based on Right to Repair Act**

Joe Ferrentino and Jeff Brower represented developers against class action claims involving copper pipe in hundreds of homes throughout Rancho Santa Margarita, Fullerton, and San Clemente. The home

### **Multi-Million Dollar Recovery of Defense Fees**

A national homebuilder hired ND to recover defense fees from five insurance carriers and several subcontractors that had breached their duty to provide a defense. Joe Ferrentino pursued these insure

### **Class Action Victory for Cal Poly Student Tenants vs. Landlord**

An owner of student housing a few blocks from Cal Poly San Louis Obispo modified the apartment units during the summer to fit more students without obtaining the proper permits and violated the Buildi

### **ND Successfully Defended Residential Homebuilder in Construction Defect Claim Resulting in Savings of Over \$2.7M**

Overview Joe Ferrentino defended a top five national homebuilder in a construction defect litigation claim involving high-end homes in Ladera Ranch. The bench trial involved 19 hom

### **Recovery from Geotechnical Engineer for Shady Canyon Home**

Joe Ferrentino and Ben Ammerman represented the owner of a custom home in a very exclusive neighborhood in Orange County. The home was suffering from damage due to settlement of the soil below the h

### **\$26 Million Jury Award against Farmers Insurance**

Following the representation of a homebuilder in a construction defect case, Joe Ferrentino and Greg Dillion represented the builder in a bad faith lawsuit against Farmers Insurance Company due to Far

### **Complete Defense of Construction Defect Claims**

The owners of 28 homes in Oxnard filed a construction defect lawsuit against a national homebuilder alleging defects in virtually every component of the home. Joe Ferrentino and Len Polyakov represe

### **Recovery of over \$25 Million from City of Anaheim**

After negotiating a multi-million dollar settlement with fourteen homeowners and two homeowners' associations damaged from a landslide in the City of Orange, Joe Ferrentino and Greg Dillion represent

### **Successful Opposition to Mass Arbitration**

After plaintiffs brought a motion to compel a mass arbitration for 48 homes in a construction defect action, Joe Ferrentino, Jessica Daley, and Shaia Araghi prevailed in convincing the court to order

## **Publications**

Published Article

### **Key Laws Affecting Housing in 2020**

Published Article

### **Deck Police - The New Mandate for HOA's Takes Safety to the Next Level**

## **News**

Aug 15, 2024 - Firm News

### **10 Newmeyer Dillion Attorneys Named to 2025 U.S. News Best Lawyers in Multiple Practice Areas**

Jan 10, 2024 - Firm News

### **Newmeyer Dillion Attorneys Recognized as Southern California Super Lawyers**

Aug 17, 2023

### **10 Newmeyer Dillion Attorneys Named to 2024 U.S. News Best Lawyers in Multiple Practice Areas**

Jan 25, 2023 - Firm News

### **Newmeyer Dillion Attorneys Recognized as Southern California Super Lawyers**

Aug 18, 2022 - Firm News

### **11 Newmeyer Dillion Attorneys Named to 2023 U.S. News Best Lawyers in Multiple Practice Areas**

Oct 26, 2021 - Media Coverage

### **The Dotted Line: 5 ways to protect yourself when taking over someone else's project**

Aug 20, 2020 - Firm News

### **12 Newmeyer Dillion Attorneys Named to 2021 U.S. News Best Lawyers in Multiple Practice Areas**

Mar 17, 2020 - Firm News

**Newmeyer Dillion Attorneys Named to 2020 Super Lawyers List**

Aug 15, 2019 - Firm News

**Newmeyer Dillion Attorneys Selected to The Best Lawyers in America© and Orange County**

Feb 07, 2019 - Media Coverage

**Problems in The SLO apartments remain after class-action lawsuit**

Jan 30, 2019 - Firm News

**Nine Newmeyer Dillion Attorneys Recognized as Southern California Super Lawyers**

Aug 17, 2018 - Firm News

**Newmeyer Dillion Attorneys Selected to Best Lawyers in America© and as Orange County Attorneys of the Year 2018**

Aug 15, 2018 - Firm News

**Nine Newmeyer Dillion Attorneys Selected to The Best Lawyers in America© 2019**

Jan 30, 2018 - Firm News

**11 Newmeyer Dillion Attorneys Recognized as Southern California Super Lawyers**

Jun 05, 2017 - Firm News

**Newmeyer Dillion Attorneys Selected to the 2017 Southern California Super Lawyers Lists**

Aug 15, 2016 - Firm News

**Newmeyer Dillion Attorneys Listed in The Best Lawyers in America© 2017**

## **Beyond the Office**

Joe grew up in Anaheim, California, and is a proud alum of Loara High where he lettered in football, basketball, and baseball. He went on to play football at Cal Poly, as well as compete on the Cal Poly debate team before moving on to Loyola Law School.

Joe and his wife of 28 years, Noelle, are the proud parents of three successful adult children. Now that his Little

League and Pop Warner coaching days are over, they enjoy traveling and spending time in June Lake.

In his spare time, Joe loves basketball, golf, hiking, and snowboarding. He is also an avid fan of the Raiders, Lakers, Angels, and Ducks.