

Comp Laude® Award: Defense Attorney

Jake Jacobsmeyer

Jake Jacobsmeyer has more than 40 years of experience as a California workers' comp attorney, having served as both an applicant and a defense attorney.

"The first applicant attorney I worked with, Ken Larson, really set the tone for what a lot of my career has been. Ken was the one who got me involved [...] was passionate about representing people, always wanted to make sure that people got taken care of [...]. I think that actually helped a lot in terms of the way things actually work and probably one of the bigger influences in the way I approach things."

Jake's biggest strength may be his expertise in developing case law. The California workers' compensation system continues to be reshaped and redefined by case law, which has become the critical element in defining how the system works. With his ability to identify trends in the growing volume of case law, and to break down the increasingly complex issues, Jake has spent his career helping workers' compensation professionals on both sides keep up with the changes and devise appropriate strategies, defenses, and responses.

As an applicant attorney in the 1980's, he was among the first to utilize a nurse case management company for assignment of an RN to help his injured workers understand their treatment plan and get better sooner. Even now as a defense attorney, he still uses the same physicians as he did on the applicant side. Jake prioritizes the rights of the injured worker, puts benefit delivery first, and insists on correct and fair ratings as well as medical treatment.

Jake is also co-editor for California Workers' Compensation Handbook (Herlick), the go-to "bible" for California workers' comp.

