

Judge Larry A. Burns has served as a U.S. District Judge for the U.S. District Court, Southern District of California since 2003, and as Chief Judge of the court January 2019 to January 2021. He was previously a U.S. Magistrate Judge from 1997 to 2003.

Judge Burns was an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of California from 1985 to 1997, and a San Diego County Deputy District Attorney from 1979 to 1985. As a lawyer, he tried over 150 cases to jury verdicts and argued more than 40 cases before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. He is a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and an associate of the American Board of Trial Advocates. Judge Burns is coauthor of the *Ninth Circuit Criminal Handbook* – a digest of federal criminal law and procedure in the Ninth Circuit including Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington – published by LexisNexis and now in its ninth edition.

During his 22 years on the federal bench, Judge Burns has presided in several significant criminal cases including the prosecution of former U.S. Congressman Randy “Duke” Cunningham for public corruption and bribery; the RICO prosecution of leaders of the notorious Arellano-Felix Tijuana drug cartel; and, by special assignment, the 2011 Tucson, Arizona mass shooting case against Jared Loughner, in which U.S. Congresswoman Gabby Giffords was gravely wounded, and Chief U.S. District Judge John Roll of Arizona as well as five others, were murdered. He has also presided in noteworthy civil cases, including the litigation over the Mount Soledad Cross, and precedential antitrust litigation interpreting and applying *Bell Atlantic v. Twombly*. In 2003, Judge Burns was named Judge of the Year by the San Diego Consumer Trial Lawyers in recognition of his effectiveness as a civil settlement judge.

Judge Burns has served as a visiting trial judge in civil and criminal trials throughout the U.S., including in New York City, Tampa, Phoenix, Boise, Coeur D’Alene, and Hagatna, Guam. He also regularly serves by designation on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, and he has authored eight reported decisions for that court.

Judge Burns received his Juris Doctor degree from USD in 1979, and his bachelor’s degree from Point Loma College in 1976.

Judge Burns has been married for 41 years to the love of his life, Kristi Francis Burns, with whom he raised two sons, Andrew and Adam.