

Since his appointment to the bench in 2016, Judge Kim has routinely presided over many civil cases under the district's voluntary consent and direct assignment programs. He has conducted several bench and jury trials involving federal misdemeanors, trademark and copyright disputes, civil rights statutes like the ADA and 42 U.S.C. § 1983, and tort cases by removal or under the FTCA. As the presiding judge for all purposes, he has also decided numerous dispositive and trial motions as well, including in class actions of all types, tax controversies, product liability suits, Title VII employment disputes, and many others. Judge Kim maintains a busy ADR calendar too, with a higher than 75 percent success rate as a neutral judicial settlement officer. And drawing on his experience in digital risk management consulting, Judge Kim regularly resolves complex discovery disputes involving computer forensic examinations, source code reviews, data spoliation, and ESI workflows.

Judge Kim is active in court governance and bench-bar organizations. He is a longstanding member (and former chair) of the Ninth Circuit's information technology committee and a member of the Ninth Circuit's judicial security committee. He has served on the board of governors and judicial advisory council for the Association of Business Trial Lawyers (Los Angeles), as well as on the executive committee for the litigation section of the Los Angeles County Bar Association. He is also a sustaining member on the judicial council for NAPABA and volunteers in working groups for the Sedona Conference. In 2021, he was elected to lifetime membership in the American Law Institute.

Before taking the bench, Judge Kim worked in both public and private sectors. He was a civil litigator at Munger, Tolles & Olson, LLP and a criminal prosecutor handling trials and appeals in the Los Angeles United States Attorney's Office. Afterward, he was a managing director for Stroz Friedberg, LLC, specializing in law and technology matters. Judge Kim also clerked for Judge Stephen V. Wilson on the same court in the Central District of California where he now serves and for Judge Sidney R. Thomas on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. He received his B.A., with special distinction, from the University of Oklahoma, where he was the Carl Albert Award recipient for the most distinguished graduate in the college of arts and sciences. He earned his J.D., magna cum laude, from Georgetown University Law Center, where he was an editor of the Georgetown Law Journal and inducted to the order of the coif.

Judge Kim keeps chambers in Los Angeles.