

Biography

Carmen Trutanich attended the University of Southern California (USC). He graduated with a business administration degree with an emphasis in Accounting and Business Management. After receiving his degree, he applied again to USC, this time to obtain his Masters Degree in Business Administration, which he received in 1974. While finishing his MBA studies, he applied to StarKist FDS, to work in the Procurement Department. After he completed his MBA, Trutanich enrolled in night school, at South Bay University College of Law to help him in his job at StarKist. He enjoyed the study and practice of law. Carmen graduated, passed the bar, and opened a small practice in San Pedro.

While attending law school and working at StarKist, from 1974 to approximately 1988, he still found time to teach part time. He taught Business Management, Business Law, Real Estate Law, and Supervision Management at Los Angeles Harbor and Marymount Junior Colleges. He possesses a Life Credential to teach college in California.

As a Deputy D.A., Trutanich excelled. He received numerous commendations from his superiors and was awarded a position in what was at the time, the coveted, newly federally funded, trial unit "the Hard Core Gang Division". Trutanich worked long and arduous hours for Los Angeles County.

The newly elected District Attorney transferred him from the gang unit, to his new start up Signature Division, the Environmental Crimes/OSHA Division. Trutanich was the environmental unit's premier trial attorney at the time. However, Trutanich refused to be transferred from the Gang Unit unless he could take a Capital Gang Case with him, just in case there wasn't enough to do. To this day, he is the only Deputy D.A. to receive a death verdict while assigned to the environmental crimes unit.

As an environmental prosecutor, Carmen tried the first felony environmental crime in the State of California and received a conviction on all counts. He was also the first prosecutor to receive a conviction under the new felony law enacted in 1984, for Illegal Disposal of Hazardous Waste. In the process Trutanich, together with another Deputy D.A., drafted the 1st set of judicially approved jury instructions for an environmental crime prosecution. Trutanich flourished as an environmental crimes prosecutor, and as in the Hardcore Gang Unit, his reputation as an accomplished trial attorney grew.

During his days as a Deputy District Attorney, Trutanich enjoyed representing the people of the State of California. He considered it a privilege to be the peoples' attorney. He gave numerous lectures and talks on behalf of the District Attorney's office; and also became an active member of his community. In 1982 his third child Kimberly was born. Having three children and coming from a strong sports background in high school and college, Trutanich volunteered to

become the regional commissioner for AYSO Soccer and served his community with pride. He lobbied for free fields for AYSO, and established a due process procedure for red cards, which is still used today within his old region. Sport has permeated Trutanich's life as he has run over 20 full 26 mile marathons, and more 10K's, 15K's, and marathons than he can count. He believes athletics is a great method to teach goal achievement.

In 1998, Trutanich left the firm he helped found and formed Trutanich-Michel, LLP with his office suitemate, C. D. "Chuck" Michel. Although their practice areas are unrelated and greatly diverse, Trutanich has continued to focus on his area of expertise, environmental litigation.