



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of legend Leo "Butch" Schuering, Jr. on May 15, 2026.

Butch was born in Sacramento on July 30, 1942. He was a proud graduate of Christian Brothers High School, where he excelled in academics and several sports. After graduating from high school, he enrolled in the United States Air Force Academy in 1960 with a plan to become a physician.

There, he excelled in mathematics, statistics and sciences - he had a brilliant mind, especially for numbers. Butch changed his mind about becoming a physician and transferred to University California, Davis in 1964 and obtained a Bachelor of Science degree that year.

Butch obtained his Juris Doctor from University of California, Hastings College of Law in 1967. He worked for the Sacramento County Public Defenders Office for two years and gained valuable trial experience. In 1969 he joined a small insurance defense firm as its fifth attorney: Hardy, Erich & Brown. He soon became a partner and had an opportunity to try many, many cases. This was a time when any contributory negligence by the plaintiff was a complete bar. During this period of time, Butch developed an expertise in medical malpractice cases, in particular obstetrical malpractice cases.

In 1982 Butch engineered the merger of Hardy, Erich & Brown with Weintraub, Genshlea & Sproul to create a large full-service law firm. He was the firm's managing partner. Butch then decided to start a new, small civil defense firm that would focus on medical malpractice and general liability. He left Weintraub, Genshlea, Hardy, Erich & Brown in 1989 with two friends and five young associates.

Butch continued to focus on medical malpractice, in particular obstetrics. He successfully defended at trial a number of obstetricians. He devoured the medical and obstetrical literature and often attended obstetrical conferences. He was on a first-name basis with many leading experts in the fields of obstetrics and maternal-fetal medicine. He was a proud member of the Roger K. Freeman, M.D. Society.

Butch was a long-time member of ABOTA. He tried to verdict more than 150 cases. He was AV rated by Martindale-Hubbell. He was a member of Best Lawyers in America beginning in 1989, and Northern California Super Lawyers beginning in 2005.

In his free time, Butch enjoyed the San Francisco 49ers, horse racing, duck hunting and opera. He also enjoyed Chargin's Bar & Grill, Jamie's Broadway Grill and the Sutter Club.

Finally, Butch was a kind and patient mentor and teacher. His door was always open to anyone with a question. He would take whatever time was necessary to explain, for example, the electrical system of the heart, the anatomy of the shoulder, the chance of survival in a cancer case, how to read a fetal heart monitor tracing, the meaning of umbilical cord blood gases or placental pathology. Butch will be missed by the many attorneys and staff who worked with him.

Butch's memory will live on with all who knew and loved him.