



Charles “Chas” Schoemaker, Jr.
Mediator—Arbitrator, Retired Civil Trial Attorney (ABOTA)
AWARD WINNING MEDIATOR

(760) 413-0860
chas@camsmediation.com

Services Offered
Mediation
Arbitration
Case Evaluation

Areas of ADR Experience

General Civil Matters
Personal Injury (Simple to catastrophic) Employment Matters
Commercial disputes (consumer and inter-business) Homeowner Association issues
Government Entity Claims and Litigation Americans with Disabilities Act disputes
Real Estate (Commercial and residential)

Mediation Philosophy

Mediation provides an opportunity to resolve a dispute in a matter of hours, rather than languishing in the court system for months or even years. My ADR style is based upon a belief that the purpose of mediation is to assist the parties to find a resolution of their respective needs. My background and experience enable me to be either facilitative or evaluative as the circumstances require.

Education & ADR Training

1973 – B.A. Rutgers University
1978 – University of West Los Angeles, School of Law J.D.
2004 – Loyola School of Law, Conflict Resolution Training
2007 – Pepperdine University, Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution “Mediating the Litigated Case”
2009 – Adult Resolutions and Mediation Services, Essentials of Elder Adult Mediation
2020 – Advanced Mediator Training: RCBA/STRAUS INSTITUTE
2020 – AOC Mediator Ethics On Line Training
Current – Yearly continuing legal education seminars for ADR topics

My legal career as an attorney started at a firm that handled the defense of major injury and complex litigation cases for insured and self-insured clients. After leaving to start my own firm, I represented individuals, small businesses and public entities as plaintiffs in tort and commercial litigation. It was my privilege to represent one of the largest school districts in the country for

thirty years. As an attorney, I have represented both plaintiffs and defendants. My litigation experience includes:

general civil litigation

business and contract disputes government tort liability

real estate construction employment and personal injury matters of all levels for both the plaintiff and the defense.

I was an Associate Member of the American Board of Trial Advocates (since retiring from active practice I have been an inactive member) and have an AV rating from Martindale-Hubbell. My ADR experience started in the late 1980s as part of the Los Angeles Superior Court Arbitration Panel. My initial mediation training was Conflict Resolution Training at Loyola School of Law in 2004, after which I joined the ADR panel of the LASC. More and more of my time and practice became devoted to Alternative Dispute Resolution. Additional ADR training included the Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution, Pepperdine University (2007) and Elder Adult Mediation Training from Adult Resolutions and Mediation Services (2009). Besides mediation cases through the LASC ADR program, I became involved with the Volunteer Settlement Officer Program, and then branched out to mediating cases in Riverside and San Bernardino. For the last few years I have been a full time mediator, and I now live and practice out of the Palm Springs area.

Admitted, State Bar of California

AV rated by Martindale-Hubbell

Riverside County Bar Association

Desert Bar Association

Southern California Mediation Association

ADR Panel of the Riverside Superior Court

Court of Appeal, 2nd District, Mediation Program

Court of Appeal, 4th District, Mediation Program

American Board of Trial Advocates

California Arbitration & Mediation Services (CAMS) ADR Panel

Mediation Certification Consortium of California: Certified Mediator

Interests

When not trying to resolve a dispute, I enjoy deep sea fishing, travel, golf and reading.

General

While growing up on the East Coast, I spent high school and college summers working at my father's roofing business. Not long after my 1973 graduation from Rutgers University I became a California transplant and have been here ever since.

A Small Sampling of Cases Chas has mediated

Commercial

Action by roofing contractor against building owner, project warranty, ongoing damages

Guarantor of note for failing adult care center and hospice defaults Alter ego complaint against shareholder of family business

Employment

Wage and hour dispute by warehouse worker, documentation issues. Employment related claims by nurse against employer hospital Wrongful termination and discrimination claims

Probate / Family Dispute Issues

Three siblings quarreling over changes made by power of attorney to bequests two weeks prior to mother's death

Younger sister and the widow of the older brother argue over disposition of deceased father's estate Disputes between successors in family originated businesses

Real Estate

Conflicting claims for ownership of church property House built on wrong block on wrong side of road

Public entities / Government Claims Act

Senior citizen reporting for jury duty has serious residual injuries after trip at courthouse plaza

Fire truck going Code 3 has accident in intersection

Slip and fall on crack in public sidewalk

Americans with Disability Act

Effect of court approval for prior modifications made by business establishment for settlement of class-action suit, with regard to alleged other ADA violations

Violations alleged at family-run gas station

Automobile and Personal Injury

Auto vs. bicycle, elderly driver causes catastrophic injuries to bicyclist, residual brain injuries

Under-insured motorist case by the policyholder after a successful claim on adverse driver's

policy limits Intoxicated passenger sustains severe injuries after falling off motorcycle driven by

former boyfriend Multiple cases where nature and extent of injuries disputed by adverse party,

familiarity with entire range of injuries associated with litigated cases, from soft tissue to serious and catastrophic injuries.

Premises

Trailer park resident manager has slip and fall, also claims retaliatory eviction and wrongful termination

Slip and fall on vomit in emergency room waiting area

Floor lamp falls and strikes customer in head at department store

General Liability

Landlord, owner of rental premises, engaged in sexual activities with tenant's minor daughter

Action alleging former significant other forged signature to line of credit, fraudulently obtaining cash advances

Action against employer of youth counselor on behalf of a seven-year-old alleging abuse

PALM SPRINGS AREA OFFICE: 78-365 Highway 111, #441, La Quinta, CA 92253

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