Alan S. Petlak, Esq.

JUDICATE WEST
Alternative Dispute Resolution
Results Beyond Dispute℠

Prior to joining Judicate West as a neutral in 2022, Alan spent over twenty years as a big firm litigator handling a variety of disputes from intake to trial. He has expertise in real estate, personal injury, consumer finance, employment, and securities and has litigated a wide variety of complicated business disputes. Since 2018, Alan has been a full-time mediator. Always prepared, Alan resolves disputes relying upon problem-solving techniques drawn from his many years of litigating and trying cases. He uses both a facilitative and evaluative approach to narrow the issues and focus the parties on settlement.Alan strongly believes that every case can and should be resolved. He works with the parties to find common ground and simplify the issues in dispute. He listens, evaluates, and, at times, cajoles the parties into settlement. One attorney commented: "Alan is an excellent mediator who understands the psychology of the parties and arrives at a practical solution for all parties involved. He is very focused on problem-solving for both sides and knows how to reconcile the desires and needs of both parties that enter the process as adversaries."

LEGAL CAREER & PRIOR EXPERIENCE

- Full-time Neutral, Judicate West (2022-Present)
- Private Mediator (2018-2022)
- Panel Mediator, U.S. District Court, Central District of California (2018-Present)
- Mediator, L.A. Superior Court Civil Mediation Vendor Resource Program (2020-2022)
- Litigation Attorney, Ballard Spahr LLP; Real Estate, Securities, Consumer Finance, Employment, Personal Injury, Partnership Disputes (2010-2018)
- Litigation Attorney, Pircher, Nichols & Meeks LLP; Real Estate, Securities and General Business Litigation (2005-2010)
- Litigation Attorney, Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP, Securities, Real Estate and Employment Litigation (1997-2005)
- Litigation Attorney, Jones Bell Abbott Fleming & Fitzgerald LLP; Securities and General Business Litigation (1995-1997)

EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- J.D., University of Southern California, Gould School of Law (1995)
- B.A., University of California at San Diego (1992)
- Pepperdine Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution (2022)
- Arbitrator Training, American Arbitration Association (2019)
- Mediation Training, Los Angeles County Bar (2018)
- Arbitrator Training, FINRA (2018)
- California Lawyers Association (CLA) Real Property Law, Executive Committee Member (2023)
- Los Angeles County Bar Association (LACBA), Member
- Association of Business Trial Lawyers (ABTL), Member
- Temple Beth Am of Los Angeles, Former Board Member
- Builders of Jewish Education, Vice President
- Consumer Attorneys Association of Los Angeles (CAALA), Member
- Claims and Litigation Management Alliance (CLM), Member

PRACTICE AREAS

Business/Contractual; Consumer Finance; Employment; Personal Injury; Professional Negligence; Real Estate; Securities

ACHIEVEMENTS & AWARDS

- Speaker - California Lawyers Association Webinar, 'Distressed Real Estate: The Interplay Between Real Estate Workouts and Litigation' (2023); Beverly Hills Bar Association, "The Impact of California's New Civility Rules on Litigation and ADR" (2024); Orange County Bar Association Solo & Small Firm Committee, "Civility in the Law" (2024); Judicate West MCLE Program, "The Best Thing You Can Wear is a

Smile: Civility in the Legal Profession" (2024); Claims and Litigation Management Association, "The Poisonous Fuel Behind Nuclear Verdicts: The Impact of Nuclear Verdicts and Litigation Funding in Litigation" (2025)

- Publications include: "California's Residential Foreclosure Overhaul Signed Into Law," Ballard Spahr Alert; "Borrower May Sue Over Lender's Failure To Contact Prior to Foreclosure, California Appellate Court Rules," Ballard Spahr Alert; "MERS Has Power To Assign Interest in Deed of Trust, California Appeals Court Rules," Ballard Spahr Alert; "Going After a Guarantor of a Real Property Loan," The Daily Journal (Los Angeles); "Can One Ever Restrict a Partner, Member or Director from Engaging in a Competing Business?" California Real Estate Journal; "The Impact of California's New Civility Rule on ADR," Daily Journal (2024); "Distressed Real Estate and ADR," Advocate Magazine ADR Issue (2024)
- Authored numerous blogs about mediation

HOBBIES & INTERESTS

Alan enjoys spending time with his wife and three children. An avid sports fan, he enjoys playing basketball and watching the Dodgers, Lakers and Rams.

LOCATIONS

Los Angeles, All of California