



Melissa Blair Aliotti, Esq.



Results Beyond DisputeSM

Melissa draws upon more than 35 years of legal experience to resolve a variety of civil litigation matters, including construction defects, all types of personal injury, landlord-tenant, and habitability matters. A part-time private mediator, arbitrator, and special master since 2010, she made the decision in 2016 to follow her passion and transitioned to full-time neutral work. She volunteered as an arbitrator, mediator, and settlement judge for local courts before embarking on her private mediation practice and has served as a judge pro tem and settlement officer for the Sacramento County Superior Court for over two decades. As an Arbitrator and a Referee, she has earned a reputation for being neutral, flexible, and thoroughly prepared. She prides herself in managing efficient hearings and allows everyone to feel heard and respected. As a Mediator, Melissa's friendly demeanor, combined with her direct and persistent approach, provides a sound foundation for the candid dialogue required to achieve resolution. She has the insight and experience to efficiently identify issues and discern on a case-by-case basis how to get parties engaged in bringing about resolution. Her goal is "to bring to the negotiation table a distinct set of problem-solving skills that will assist the parties in resolving their disputes on their terms so that they can get back to what they care about most in their lives – their families, their businesses, their passions."

LEGAL CAREER & PRIOR EXPERIENCE

- Neutral, Judicate West (2018-Present)
- Mediator, Arbitrator & Private Judge, Aliotti Dispute Resolution (2010-Present)
- DRC Officer, Dispute Resolution Conference, El Dorado Superior Court (2000-Present)
- Appointed Mediator and Arbitrator, Sacramento County Superior Court (1998-Present)
- MSC Judge Pro Tem, Department 59, Superior Court of Sacramento (1998-Present)
- Partner, Read & Aliotti PC handling civil litigation: personal injury, landlord/tenant, habitability, construction, construction defect, sexual abuse, assault/battery, D&O, HOA (1997-2016)
- Associate, Tennant Read & Dutra; Read & Dutra; Read, Dutra & Oates; Law Offices of Michael B. Read, handling civil litigation: personal injury, construction defect, D&O (1990-1997)
- Associate, Mullen & Filippi, handling workers' compensation defense (1988-1990)

EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- J.D., Monterey College of Law (1987)
- B. A., San Diego State University, Political Science and Sociology (1983)
- Dispute Resolution Training (100+ hours), Pepperdine University School of Law/Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution, American Bar Association, and Sacramento County Bar Association (2010-Current)
- American Bar Association (1987-Present)
- Sacramento County Bar Association (Construction, Litigation) (1990-Present), ADR Section Chair (2018-Present)
- Volunteers of America-NCNN, Board of Directors (2012-Present); Board Chair (2019-2021)
- ABA Women in Dispute Resolution (WIDR), Member (2016- Present)
- Association of Defense Counsel of NorCal and Nevada (1980-2018; 2023-Present), Board of Directors (2006-2011)
- National Association of Women in Construction (2011-2014)

PRACTICE AREAS

All types of Construction Disputes; Insurance Coverage; Personal Injury; Product Liability; Real Estate

ACHIEVEMENTS & AWARDS

- Alternative Dispute Resolution, Northern California Super Lawyers (2020-Present)
- Named, "Top Lawyer" by Sacramento Magazine (2016-Present)
- AV-Rated Preeminent, Martindale-Hubbell
- Recipient, President's Award, Association of Defense Counsel of Northern California and Nevada (2011)

HOBBIES & INTERESTS

In her spare time, she enjoys music, gardening, reading, and skiing, and keeping current on political and cultural issues. She also loves dogs!

LOCATIONS

Northern California, All of California