

MEDIATOR PROFILE – EDWARD M. LAI, ESQ.

EDUCATION

BS, Psychology, University of Maryland
BA, Urban Studies, University of Maryland
JD, Golden Gate University School of Law, San Francisco
Mediation Training – University of California at Berkeley

Languages: Conversational Fluency in Cantonese Chinese

PROFESSIONAL-EXPERIENCE

Edward M. Lai specializes in representing building contractors and small business owners in commercial disputes, employment advice and litigation, contract negotiation, construction matters and tort/personal injury litigation. He has achieved excellent results at both jury and court bench trials, and hearings and proceedings in Federal, State and Appellate Courts. He has expertise in the fields of construction law, construction defect litigation, breach of contract, Americans With Disabilities (ADA) litigation, first party and third-party insurance coverage, business entity formation, professional malpractice litigation, and landlord/tenant disputes and litigation. As a Mediator, Mr. Lai has successfully mediated business/partnership disputes, wage & hour/employment disputes, landlord-tenant/unlawful detainer matters, as well as litigated and non-litigated personal injury matters. Many of his mediations involved highly emotional disputes and multi-cultural issues.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Former Commissioner of the City of Oakland Housing, Relocation and Rent Board (served 1 1/2 terms as Chairman and 3 terms as Co-Chairman)
- Associate Professor at the California State University East Bay Campus where he teaches law classes in the paralegal and prelaw divisions
- Law Instructor for Alameda and Contra Costa County SCORE
- Special Master for the Counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Santa Clara and Solano
- Volunteer mediator in the Alameda County Superior Court Unlawful Detainer Program
- Board of Directors for the Meals on Wheels of Alameda County
- Former President of the Redwood Heights Neighborhood Association
- Alameda County Bar Association

STATEMENT

I take great pride and personal satisfaction in my work as a Mediator to help parties resolve their disputes. My greatest successes come from allowing all parties to be heard, to clarify the undisputed facts, and to help understand the positions of the other party. Then, I focus the energies of the parties to help them fashion their own compromise solutions, while at the same time, diffusing their emotions and personal angers which so often, may have worked to stop their efforts to reach a resolution previously. I continually strive to cultivate and develop within me the fundamental skills necessary to be an effective mediator, including: (1) good listening and communication skills, (2) patience, (3) the ability to be understanding and empathetic to the situation of others, (4) identify important legal and factual issues and (5) the desire to work tirelessly and tenaciously. I work hard to help the parties resolve their differences amicably,

effectively, and efficiently, with a minimum of the emotional and economic burdens that are so commonly found in litigation.

FEES

Reduced rate of \$200/hour for the first two hours, and then \$400/hour thereafter.

SERVICE-AREAS

San Francisco, Marin, Solano, Napa, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Alameda, Sonoma, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Yolo and Sacramento Counties with no charge for travel time but will charge for reimbursement of actual travel costs incurred. Willing to travel to mediate disputes under this Program to all other Counties in the State of California for reimbursement of reasonable travel costs and a flat travel fee of \$300.00

OFFICE LOCATION

Oakland

DO NOT CONTACT MEDIATOR DIRECTLY. All mediations must be filed directly with our Center and questions for mediators pre-assignment should be arranged with our Center.