

MEDIATOR PROFILE – Joe Castagnola, ESQ.

EDUCATION:

Undergraduate Degree: Bachelor of Science, Law – Northwestern California University School of Law

Legal Education: Juris Doctor – Northwestern California University School of Law

Mediation Training: Steven Rosenberg Mediation Training (40 hours), Mediating Disputes under the C.A.R. Residential Purchase Agreement (3.5 hours), and the course, “Your Guide to the 2021 California RPA and Related Forms”.

Arbitration Training: Bay Area Mediation Services Arbitrator Training (20 hours).

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

The mediation clause in many CAR forms, including the Residential Purchase Agreement, excludes disputes litigated in small claims court. As a former temporary judge, Joe’s experience in having decided cases like yours could provide helpful insight into how your case may turn out in the event of impasse in mediation.

Joe was first licensed as a real estate broker and mortgage broker in 2007 and is still licensed in these industries. It is quite possible that Joe has first-hand experience with whatever issue has caused you/your client to consider mediation.

As an attorney, Joe is no longer engaged in private practice and is now an attorney in practice with the government in high stress and high stakes matters.

With strong qualifications and a track record for success, this highly experienced and educated attorney, mediator, and former judge pro tem has demonstrated the ability to achieve impressive outcomes in challenging circumstances, and has a proven ability to analyze complicated situations and implement appropriate solutions that exceed client expectations. As a mediator, Joe: thoughtfully reviews case files, prudently listens to the parties’ positions, and objectively assists the parties in identifying their best and worst possible alternatives to a mediated settlement all while synergistically supporting each party in reaching a successful resolution.

AFFILIATIONS:

Former temporary judge (judge pro tem) at the Superior Court of the State of California, County of Sonoma

Former mediator at the Superior Court of the State of California, County of Sonoma

Former mandatory pretrial settlement conference panelist at the Superior Court of the State of California, County of Sonoma

Mediator panelist at the Bar Association of San Francisco

Arbitrator panelist at the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA)

Attorney/client fee arbitration panelist at the California Bar Association

Real Estate Broker, California Department of Real Estate (DRE #01726289)

Mortgage Broker, Nationwide Mortgage Licensing System (NMLS #1423995)

Property and Casualty/Life Insurance Broker, California Department of Insurance (DOI #0F33937)

Joe is admitted to practice before the following courts: The Supreme Court of the United States (#318544), The Supreme Court of the State of California (#317368), The United States Tax Court (#CJ23244), The United States District Court for the Eastern District of California, The United States District Court for the Southern District of California, The United States District Court for the Central District of California, The United States District Court for the Northern District of California, The United States Navy-Marine Corps Court of Criminal Appeals, The

United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces (#37879), and The United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

STATEMENT:

People don't drown if they fall into the ocean. They drown if they don't get help quickly enough. Save yourself a lot of time, stress, and money by beginning mediation as soon as possible.

Because mediation is not a "one size fits all" option, as a mediator, Joe specializes in working with the parties to develop effective solutions that are appropriate for their unique situation.

While mediation isn't right for every dispute, Joe commonly recommends attempting mediation before taking legal action. This is largely because mediation involves looking into the future... something has occurred and now it's time to think about tomorrow. Whereas in court proceedings, the entire process involves recreating the past and deciding who is to blame. Further, nothing bad happens in mediation. In mediation, the parties have absolute control, they decide the terms upon which their dispute will be resolved, and when an agreement is reached, it is because both parties chose to come to an agreement. Additionally, the opinions of judges and arbitrators can and do vary. Meaning that one judge or arbitrator could find in your favor; while a different judge or arbitrator could find against you.

When previously acting as a temporary judge and ordering parties to participate in pretrial mediation, Joe would always tell the parties that, "in mediation, it is the parties who get to be the authors in writing the conclusion to their story. Whereas if your case goes forward to trial, it is the judge who is going to be the sole author of that conclusion."

A purchase or sale of California real estate, most likely, involves the largest individual investment that you or your client will ever be a part of. If the process of completing that transaction is experiencing a few "twists and turns", please allow me to assist in making that road straight again.

When Joe is out of the office, he enjoys spending time with his wife and young son, being outdoors, and officiating football games from the youth to NCAA level.

FEES:

\$200.00 per hour for the first two hours (\$100.00 per hour/per party for two party mediations) and \$400.00 per hour thereafter (\$200.00 per hour/per party for two party mediations). There is a minimum time commitment of four hours. The total combined fee for a four hour mediation is \$1,200.00 (\$150.00 per hour/per party for two party mediations). Payment methods accepted: Cashier's check, money order, personal or business check, PayPal, and Venmo.

SERVICE AREAS:

Joe will mediate any case originating in California over Zoom.

Joe's mediation schedule is limited to weekends and holidays only.

OFFICE LOCATION:

Joe's mediation practice is virtual in California.

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.