

MEDIATOR PROFILE – MICHAEL R. NOTARO, ESQ.

EDUCATION

The Phillips Exeter Academy (1981); University of California, Berkeley, BA (1985); Golden Gate University School of Law (1995)

Mediator Skills Training: Ron Kelly Mediator Certificate Training (40 Hours); Mediating Disputes under the C.A.R. Residential Purchase Agreement (3.5 hours); 6th Appellate District Mediation Training (28.75 Hours); Retired Judge Rebecca Westerfield Alternative Dispute Resolution Training (40 Hours); Numerous MCLE programs in mediation and real property subjects.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Michael is a trained mediator with over 39 years of transaction real estate experience. He mediates disputes across a wide spectrum of real estate issues, including failure to disclose in residential and commercial real estate sales, earnest money disputes, HOA conflicts, REALTOR® breach of fiduciary duty and negligence claims, property management claims, commission disputes, co-ownership and partnership disputes, landlord/tenant disputes, partition actions and neighbor nuisance, easement and encroachment claims.

Before transitioning to mediation, Michael enjoyed a successful career as a commercial real estate broker with Grubb and Ellis Company, where he garnered awards as the top industrial broker in 1990 and 1992. Over the years, he has sold or leased over 1 million square feet of commercial real estate, representing prestigious entities such as Penske Truck Leasing, Wells Fargo Trust, Mead Zellerbach, GEO International and the City of Oakland. In 1995, Michael was the founding partner of Phoenix Commercial Real Estate.

Since 2005, Michael has practiced as a real estate attorney, leveraging his wealth of experience to assist client in navigating complex real estate matters. He is dedicated to helping clients assess and resolve a broad range of real estate issues including contract disputes, rent control matters, title issues, zoning conflicts, or other matters. Michael 's approach emphasizes due diligence to identify and address potential problems before they escalate, empowering clients to make informed decisions and mitigate future risks effectively.

AFFILIATIONS

California State Bar #241007
California Real Estate Broker #00907817
American Bar Association, Alternative Dispute Section
Alameda County Bar Association, ADR Executive Committee
Alameda Superior Court Day of Court Mediator
Mediator, Sixth District Appellate Court

PERSONAL STATEMENT

I take a practical approach to helping parties solve their real estate disputes. Recognizing the high costs and risks associated with litigation, I advocate for mediation as a more efficient and effective alternative, sparing parties the expense, stress and time-consuming nature of court proceedings. My commitment lies in comprehensively understanding the needs and interests of all parties involved, fostering constructive dialogue, addressing emotional barriers, and ultimately facilitating a mutually beneficial settlement.

Drawing from my background as both a REALTOR® and lawyer, I bring a unique blend of problem-solving, legal expertise, negotiation skills and seasoned wisdom to the mediation table. Having served as President of Toastmasters International (2011-2012), I possess the ability to communicate effectively with diverse parties, irrespective of every race, culture or gender.

My mediation approach is grounded in active listening and empathetic understanding each party's perspective, interests and concerns. I recognize that successful mediation requires patience, flexibility and perseverance. As a real estate mediator, I consider it a privilege to contribute to the resolution of complex disputes, helping parties find common ground and move forward constructively.

FEES: \$325.00 Per Hour

SERVICE AREAS

Michael performs video-conference mediation throughout California; He mediates in-person at his offices in Alameda, CA or within driving distance of Alameda, CA, including most Bay Area counties. In person mediation outside of driving distance is available on a travel reimbursement basis to be negotiated.

OFFICE LOCATION

Alameda, 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.