



Kelly A. Bennett, Esq.
CEO, Lead Mediator



Ms. Bennett is founder of Mediation Law Group, Inc.™ As an active litigation attorney, she has successfully represented both plaintiffs and defendants in business, corporate and real estate matters in State and Federal courts for more than 17 years. Ms. Bennett received her certification in alternative dispute resolution from the Institute for Dispute Resolution at Pepperdine University School of Law in 1990 (member of the first graduating class) and has mediated and arbitrated hundreds of cases. She is a frequent public speaker, instructor and consultant in resolution skills. Ms. Bennett is known for her tenacity in mediation and skill in moving parties to creative and practical solutions to their controversies.

EXPERIENCE

Before shifting the majority of her practice to mediation and arbitration, Ms. Bennett practiced law in Southern California from 1991 through 2002, with an emphasis on corporate and business start-ups, real estate, landslide/soil subsidence, construction defect and business litigation. Currently, she maintains a limited law practice handling a select number of complex family issues, in addition to her full-time resolution practice. Ms. Bennett regularly mediates and arbitrates a wide range of disputes, including wrongful termination and employment-related, personal injury, business transactions, partnerships, contracts, real estate, homeowner associations, construction, landlord-tenant, physician-patient, church, technology, recording and licensing agreements, attorney-client disputes, and family law issues.

In addition to her dispute resolution activities, Ms. Bennett is Mayor Pro Tem for the City of Murrieta, having been the first woman elected to the City Council, taking office in November, 2006. As an elected official, Ms. Bennett was instrumental in the establishment of the City of Murrieta's first Youth Court Program, an alternate diversion program for first-time, low-level juvenile offenders. She also serves on the Executive Committee for the Western Riverside Council of Governments (WRCOG), a coalition of 14 local jurisdictions and County Districts. Ms. Bennett is a certified court mediator for the Los Angeles County Courts, Judge Pro Tem/Settlement Officer for the Orange and Riverside County and Superior Courts, Judge Pro Tem (Small Claims Panel) for Riverside County Superior Court, Attorney Settlement Officer for the U.S. District (Federal) Court, Central District, and is an arbitrator for the National Association of Securities Dealers (NASD) and the Better Business Bureau (BBB). In addition to her Certificate in Dispute Resolution from Pepperdine School of Law, Ms. Bennett has over 22 hours of family law mediation training. From 1995 through 1998, Ms. Bennett served three years on the Board of Directors of a community based mediation and arbitration service in Orange County, and a fourth year as Board Chair, where she mediated disputes on a regular basis.

PUBLICATIONS

Featured in *Inland Empire Magazine*, *Riverside County Lawyer Magazine*, as well as local newspaper, radio and television interviews. Ms. Bennett's articles have

been published in numerous magazines, including the *Christian Management Report*, *Church Executive Magazine*, and *Riverside County Lawyer*.

TEACHING

Ms. Bennett frequently lectures and presents programs on conflict resolution and mediation to area bar associations, business organizations, churches and schools. Recent engagements include: Southwest Riverside County Bar Association, Christian Management Association, Creative Church Conference (C3) at Fellowship Church (Grapevine, TX), Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) annual conference; Passionate '07 Church Conference (Palm Desert, CA); Biola University (Masters in Organizational Leadership Program), and the Robert Schuller Institute for Successful Church Leadership. She has taught Professional Responsibility and Ethics at Trinity University School of Law in Orange County, California.

LEADERSHIP & AFFILIATIONS

Councilmember, City of Murrieta, CA (Term 2006-2010); 2007 President, Southwest Riverside County Bar Association; 2008 Officer/Board Member Southwest Riverside County Bar; Charter Member, Murrieta Youth Court Steering Committee, 2008; 2007-08 Member, Court-Community Planning Committee, Riverside County Superior Court; 2007-08 Member, Western Riverside Council of Governments Executive Committee; 2007/2008 Member, S.A.F.E. (Safe Alternatives for Everyone) Domestic Violence Prevention Advisory Board; 2006 Vice President, Southwest Riverside County Bar Association; Past Member, Association for Conflict Resolution (Practitioner-Level Member); Member, Masters' Forum, Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution, Pepperdine School of Law (invitation-only annual forum of advanced ADR practitioners); Member, Christian Management Association (CMA); Member, National Association of Church Business Administration (NACBA); Member, Daniels Inn (Temecula Valley Chapter); Past Member, Christian Legal Society. Additional past memberships include Society of Professionals in Dispute Resolution (SPIDR), the Association of Trial Lawyers of America, the Southern California Mediation Association, the Federal Bar Association, and the Association of Fundraising Professionals.

EDUCATION: • J.D., Pepperdine University School of Law, 1990 • Certificate in Dispute Resolution, Institute for Dispute Resolution, Pepperdine University School of Law, 1990 • B.A., Political Science, Pepperdine University, 1987

