

Barrett Mediation PLLC  
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**M. COLLEEN BARRETT** was born in Seattle, Washington. She attended the University of Washington, receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and Communications in 1976. She worked at KOMO as a television news producer before attending law school at the University of Puget Sound. Ms. Barrett graduated *cum laude* in 1982 and was admitted to the Washington State Bar the same year. She was admitted to Hawaii bar in 2012. She completed the Mediation Certificate Program at the University of Washington.

After more than 30 years of successful practice as a trial lawyer, primarily working as a civil defense attorney, but also representing plaintiffs, Ms. Barrett has left her litigation practice to work full time helping other people settle their cases. Her decades of experience evaluating and trying cases has earned her the trust and respect of both opposing counsel and insurance carriers.

Between 1980 and 1988, Ms. Barrett was a legal intern and an Assistant City Attorney for the City of Seattle. While with the City Attorney's office, she had a broad range of experience, including criminal prosecution, providing legal opinions, and litigating employment discrimination, workers compensation, and personal injury cases.

Between 1988 and 2013, Ms. Barrett handled complex litigation, including construction defect, products liability, contract, warranty, defamation, professional malpractice, professional negligence, sexual harassment, age discrimination and civil rights cases. She has also tried cases involving personal injuries and death arising out of automobile accidents and premises liability. Ms. Barrett's practice included general insurance law matters, including coverage questions, declaratory judgment actions and bad faith litigation.

She has practiced before municipal, district, superior, and federal district courts, the Board of Industrial Insurance Appeals, the Public Employees Relations Commission, Seattle Civil Service Commission, Washington Human Rights Commission, and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. She has also prepared and argued appellate matters before Divisions I, II and III of the Court of Appeals, the Washington Supreme Court and the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals.

Ms. Barrett lectures on topics such as Trial Practice, Insurance Law, Premises Liability, Sexual Harassment and Discrimination. She has also served on a number of Washington State Bar Association Committees, including chairing the Court Improvement Committee. She served a mediator with the Bar Association's Fee Dispute Program. Ms. Barrett also has also served as a neutral arbitrator under both the mandatory arbitration program.

Ms. Barrett has been given an AV rating, the highest peer review rating awarded, as reported in Martindale-Hubbell. Washington Defense Trial Lawyers Trial Lawyer of the Year 2012. Named one of Seattle's Top Lawyers for 2010 by Seattle Metropolitan Magazine. Selected as 2007 Washington Super Lawyer by Law and Politics Magazine.

## **AREAS OF EXPERIENCE**

### **ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

Mediation  
Arbitration

### **GENERAL INSURANCE (DEFENSE)**

Bad Faith  
Coverage Issues  
Construction Defects  
Premises Liability  
Motor Vehicle Accidents  
Employment Discrimination  
Civil Rights  
Sexual Harassment  
Defamation  
Breach of Contract  
Casualty  
Errors and Omissions  
Professional Malpractice (Medical, Nursing Home, Legal, Brokers)

### **GENERAL CIVIL TRIAL PRACTICE (PLAINTIFF)**

Employment Law  
Personal Injury  
Policyholder Coverage

### **APPELLATE PRACTICE**

Supreme Court  
Court of Appeals  
Federal Court  
Administrative Appeals