

## DEBRA L. MELLINKOFF

1001 Bridgeway #203  
Sausalito, CA 94965

(415) 289-0300  
FAX (415) 289-0400

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### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- **Principal, Mellinkoff Mediation**

San Francisco, CA

April 1993 - Present

Owner of alternative dispute resolution firm with 30 years of experience in resolving business, banking, securities, real estate, employment, intellectual property, bankruptcy, probate, professional malpractice, personal injury, construction, insurance and environmental disputes.

#### **Achievements:**

Member of mediation panels for United States District Court Northern District of California, San Francisco Superior Court, Marin County Superior Court, San Mateo Superior Court, California Court of Appeal, United States Bankruptcy Court and National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc.

Successfully resolved numerous disputes before a lawsuit was ever filed.

Conducted independent fact-finding in employment, discrimination and sexual harassment claims, including interviews of key witnesses and review of confidential information.

Developed seminars on using mediation proactively to resolve disputes before they escalate into litigation, and how lawyers can be effective advocates in a mediation.

Member of California Academy of Distinguished Neutrals, Society of Professionals in Dispute Resolution, The Mediation Society, ABA Committee on Mediation, ABA Committee on International Alternative Dispute Resolution, California Dispute Resolution Council and San Francisco Superior Court ADR Committee.

- **Partner, Long & Levit**

San Francisco, CA

1987 - March 1993

Business, employment, real estate and legal malpractice litigation attorney at multi-specialty law firm. Managed all aspects of litigation involving financial institutions, real estate developers, manufacturers, attorneys, accountants and brokers. Specialized in mediation as alternative to litigation.

Served as Hiring Partner and member of New Business Committee.

**Achievements:**

Negotiated the settlement in two-year old false advertising/unfair competition multi-party litigation in several months, after client had spent \$800,000 in attorneys' fees on former counsel.

Acted as general counsel for several real estate brokerage firms. Duties included handling all legal matters affecting companies, acting as a business counselor, and training agents to avoid litigation.

- **Attorney, Schulte Roth & Zabel**  
New York, NY 1983 - 1987

Counsel to New York financial institutions and securities brokerage firms in litigation, bankruptcy, employment, probate and real estate matters.

**Achievements:**

Negotiated loan workouts with Citibank N.A.'s private banking clients.

Facilitated settlements in four class action securities fraud lawsuits.

- **Attorney, Shea & Gould**  
New York, NY 1981 - 1983

Commercial and employment litigation practice.

- **Mediator, California State Energy Commission**  
San Francisco, CA 1979 - 1980

Mediated dispute between state government and community residents over proposed expansion of co-generation facility in San Francisco.

- **Mediator, Environmental Council on Funding**  
New York, NY 1976 - 1979

Appointed by Rhode Island Governor J. Joseph Garrahy to mediate a dispute among business, labor, environmental and governmental leaders over the disposition of 4,000 acres of Navy property adjoining Narragansett Bay.

**Achievements:**

Negotiated the development of evaluation criteria, pertaining to economic, social and environmental issues, so that merits of development proposals could be evaluated in light of community concerns.

Author of manual on use of mediation to resolve disputes over use of surplus military properties prepared for Office of Economic Adjustment of the Department of Defense.

Extensive fund-raising experience with corporate and private foundations and governmental funding through Department of Defense.

Dealt extensively with the media in highly publicized regional dispute.

Testified before the U.S. Council on Environmental Quality on using mediation to resolve land use disputes.

## **EDUCATION**

### **UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA**, Hastings College of the Law

J.D. 1981

Recipient of Moot Court Award

Judicial Intern for the Honorable Charles E. Stewart, United States District Court  
Southern District of New York.

### **UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA**, Santa Cruz, CA

B.A. 1976

Crown Zellerbach Fellowship

Honors in the Major

Honors on the Thesis

## **OTHER EXPERIENCE**

- Chairperson of Legal Employment Action Program of the Bar Association of San Francisco.
- Former member of Board of Directors of the Bar Association of San Francisco.
- Created board game "Our Town" and marketed to major New York stores.
- Recipient of the 1998 Award of Merit from the Bar Association of San Francisco.
- Member of New York and California State Bars.

## **REFERENCES**

Available upon request.

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