



My father was a lawyer. He practiced [personal injury](#) law in Birmingham for over 50 years. He had a good practice, a solid reputation and many friends both inside and outside of the profession. In short, he was great at what he did. When I was younger, I wasn't sure I wanted to follow in his footsteps.

I remember late night calls coming into the house from clients. I remember long hours that he'd spend at the office, at court, or at a client's house. I remember thinking that maybe I should be doing something else with my life – maybe I wasn't cut out for the law. I did end up going to law school, though, and I returned home to Birmingham to practice corporate law at a larger firm in town.

One day my dad called and said that he needed help on a significant case and he'd like me to be a part of it. At first, I thought I would be helping him out. As it turns out, he was helping me. Working with him on that case and as his partner for the next 10 years, I learned about clients, myself and more about the law.

Through the practice of law with my father and with my partners, I learned that a majority of what we do is all about people, and those relationships matter. In turn, I have realized that I have been able to work to bring people together and resolve their problems while in litigation by working with the clients and opposing counsel and parties. That is what I have enjoyed and what led me to a mediation practice. Mediation elevates communication to allow those in conflict to resolve disputes through respect and thoughtful engagement. It is a very rewarding process which is not as easy as it might appear to some. There is strategy and technique, and that is what is fulfilling to me – using those strategies and techniques to help other move forward and away from the conflict,

- Tulane University; BSM with concentration in Finance, *cum laude*
- Vanderbilt University School of Law, 1992, JD
- State Bar of Alabama
- State Bar of Georgia
- Birmingham Bar Association
- Vice President of Alabama State Bar Dispute Resolution Section
- ABA Membership Committee for Dispute Resolution Section

## **Mediation Training**

- Completed 40 hours of comprehensive training in Divorce and Family Mediation
- Registered on the Alabama State Court mediator Roster
- Completed the 2019 Master Mediators Forum for 6 hours of Advanced Mediation CLE
- Registered on the Alabama Arbitrator Roster
- Approved as a FINRA Dispute Resolution Arbitrator
- Completed 20 hours of training in The Mediation Process & the Skills of Conflict Resolution, Mediation Media
- Master Mediators Forum
- Neutral Solution '19 Annual Conference
- Completed 6.8 hours of Appellate Mediation Training
- On the Supreme Court of Alabama and Alabama Court of Civil Appeals Appellate Roster of mediators
- [Alabama Center for Dispute Resolution Profile](#)

## **Articles and CLE Speaking Engagements**

[ABA Mediation Week 2020](#) – [Mediation and Access to Justice During a Pandemic](#)

[Top Seven Complaints About Mediation](#) – Fall 2021 ABA TIPS Section

Panel for Best Practices in Arbitration Webinar – April 21, 2022 – Sponsored by the Alabama Bar Section on Dispute Resolution and the Alabama Center for Dispute Resolution

Alabama State Bar Annual Meeting Panel on Access to Justice in Mediation – July 15, 2021

ABA Panel and TIPS Webinar about Mediation in conjunction with Fall 2021 article

Alabama State Bar Annual Meeting Panel on Mediation Mistakes: What Every Mediator and Attorney Should Avoid – June 23, 2022

Panel Webinar “Confronting Bias in Mediation” - Sponsored by the Alabama Bar Section on Dispute Resolution and the Alabama Center for Dispute Resolution – November 17, 2022