



Biographical Information

Steven A. Wawra, Esq.

Following a 30 year career in law and real estate business, Mr. Wawra has focused since 2000 exclusively on conducting mediations, settlement conferences and arbitrations, and on ADR instruction. He has settled a broad range of real estate, financial, business, partnership, employment and negligence disputes. He conducts mediations with particular sensitivity to cross-cultural issues, as a result of extensive experience in working with Japanese entities and a life-long European involvement as a result of Swiss-born parents and close family ties in Switzerland, France and Italy, some of whom were involved in major industrial and diplomatic efforts.

LEGAL AND BUSINESS EXPERIENCE

- Mitsui Real Estate Sales USA Co., Ltd., Los Angeles, CA (1988 – 1996)
General Counsel and Senior Vice President of U.S. subsidiary of Japan-based Mitsui Real Estate Sales Ltd., involved in the acquisition and sale, joint-venture development, and leasing of large office, commercial and multi-tenant residential properties
- Commercial Real Estate Broker for U.S. and Foreign Clients, Southern California (1981- 1988)
Provided purchase, sale and leasing services for U.S., Japanese, and European entities; participated in Mayor of Los Angeles-led professional group in real estate business development effort in Tokyo, meeting with leading Japanese real estate corporations
- Vidal Sassoon, Inc., Los Angeles, CA (1978 – 1981)
Associate General Counsel of international hair and skin care products' company
- Private Law Practice, Orange County, CA (1975 – 1978)
Established and operated West Coast office of Delson & Gordon, a then prominent New York law firm
- Shareholders Capital Corporation, Los Angeles, CA (1970 – 1975)
Assistant General Counsel, Corporate Secretary and Assistant to the President of publicly-held corporation in the issuance and management of six then-prominent mutual funds and real estate syndications; participated in business development effort in Tokyo targeting leading Japanese securities firms to develop a Pacific-basin mutual fund

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- Graham & James (merged with Squire, Sanders & Dempsey), Los Angeles, (1967 -1970)
Associate in Los Angeles office of major San Francisco-based international law firm; assignments included legal counsel for Bank of Tokyo of California (now Union Bank of California), Marubeni America Corporation and other Japanese trading companies.

DISPUTE RESOLUTION EXPERIENCE

- Conducted over 1000 mediations and mandatory settlement conferences of civil cases, including cases with culturally diverse parties. A representative list of 100 cases settled in mediation is available upon request.
- From 2001 – 2009, conducted civil mandatory settlement conferences bi-weekly for San Bernardino County Superior Court in Barstow, and frequently for Victorville Superior Court and other San Bernardino Superior Courts
- Since 1997, mediator on numerous mediation panels including IVAMS; U.S. District Court; Superior Courts in Los Angeles, Orange and Riverside Counties; National Association of Securities Dealers (NASD)/Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA); U.S. Postal Service; ADR Services and other private ADR provider panels
- Since 1997, arbitrated over 50 cases on various arbitration panels, including NASD/FINRA and IVAMS
- 1998- 2000, Executive director of then-largest Orange County-funded non-profit organization, providing mediation services and training to businesses, schools, governmental entities and individuals in Orange County

MEDIATION AND ARBITRATION TRAINING

- Numerous mediation training courses and seminars from Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution, Pepperdine University School of Law including:
Negotiation and Settlement Advocacy, 1995; Mediation and Settlement Skills, 1997; Mediation Advocacy, 2002; Advanced Mediation, 2003; Settling Difficult Cases, 2004; Advanced Mediation Strategies, 2005; Getting to the Heart of the Matter in Mediation; Improved Decision Making and Moral Intuition as Themes in Mediation, 2006; Advanced Mediation, 2008; Advanced Mediation Skills, 2009; Advanced Mediation Skills, 2010
- Numerous additional mediation skills training courses from USDC and many others, including cross-cultural courses, 1995-2014
- Arbitration training courses from NASD/FINRA; University of California, Irvine, Extension; and Council of Better Business Bureaus

EDUCATION/AFFILIATIONS

- University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) School of Law, J.D., 1967
Recipient, American Jurisprudence Award, Family Wealth Transactions
- University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), B.A. Economics, 1964
- University of Paris (Sorbonne), French Language Studies, 1960

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- Monterey Institute of International Studies, French Language and Cultural Studies, 1961
- State Bar of California
- Southern California Mediation Association
- ICC Arbitration Subcommittee Southwest
- California Real Estate Broker

ADR INSTRUCTOR AND PANEL PRESENTATIONS

- Instructor, Certificate Program in Conflict Management and the Use of Alternative Dispute Resolution, University of California, Irvine, Extension (courses in arbitration and survey of alternative dispute resolution methods), 1998-2004
- Presenter, Professional Fiduciary Association of California 17th Annual Educational Conference, “Restoring Relationships – A Mediator’s Perspective”, April 2012
- Co-Presenter, USCIB Arbitration Subcommittee to ICC, “Review of California, Federal and Various International Arbitration Disclosure Standards”, November 2011
- Panel Member, Orange County Asian American Bar Association, “Mediation and Settlement from an Asian Perspective”, Orange County, November 2010
- Panel Member, Annual Conference of the Southern California Mediation Association at the Straus Institute at Pepperdine University Law School, “Use/Benefits of Mediation Certification in Choosing International Mediators”, November 2009
- Keynote Co-Presenter, Annual Training Conference of California Caucus of College and University Ombuds, “Mediation Tools and Confidentiality for Use in Ombuds Process”, Pacific Grove, CA, November 2007
- Panel Chair, Orange County Bar Association, International Section, “ABC’s of International ADR”, March 2004
- Proposed Seminar Presentation, Istanbul, Turkey, Fatih University Law School, “History and Use of ADR in Southern California”