



MEDIATION & ARBITRATION

## Douglas S. Rafner, Esq.



Doug has represented every side of an issue. He has represented plaintiffs, defendants, and worked as a claim's examiner for a major insurance company. The result is a well-rounded understanding of the system. Armed with that background, Doug has taken his passionate and out of the box approach toward the Mediation of contested claims. Doug serves on the San Diego Superior Court's Mediation panel and has taught classes in Mediation and Negotiation at Thomas Jefferson School of Law. Doug's empathetic and knowledgeable viewpoint in each case will assist in overcoming the obstacles which may be creating impasse in your case. Doug is tireless and relentless and believes strongly in uncovering every option in order to achieve a settlement.

### WORK EXPERIENCE

#### **LAW OFFICE OF DOUGLAS S. RAFNER – June 2010 to present**

Practice devoted to litigation and mediation of contested claims. Including, but not limited to matters involving: Serious Personal Injuries; Complex Construction Defect matters; Complex Business disputes;; Education Issues; Employment Matters; Landlord/Tenant matters; Construction Lien Claims; Real Estate Disputes; and Homeowners Association claims. Doug is connected and has interacted with numerous law firms, attorneys, and insurance carriers.

Doug has been appointed by the Court as a Special Master and Mediator in a number of complex construction defect matters.

#### **LAW OFFICES OF LOUIS GABBARA – February 2020-present**

Doug has been asked to serve as key Trial counsel for a personal injury law firm. Cases involve auto accidents, slip and falls involving serious personal injury. As Trial counsel Doug has been involved in the assessment of cases and works with attorneys and carriers to resolve matters prior to Trial.

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**G&P|SCHICK** – May 2017 – May 2019

Attorney in medium sized insurance defense focused law firm handling numerous civil litigation matters, including construction defect, personal injury, medical malpractice, product liability and insurance bad faith claims. Incorporated existing mediation/arbitration practice and have served as both mediator and arbitrator of contested cases.

**EPSTEN GRINNELL & HOWELL** – June 2007 – June 2010

Attorney in medium sized Homeowners Association focused law firm handling numerous civil litigation and insurance dispute claims, including construction defect cases, insurance bad faith claims, view obstruction disputes, construction liens and transactional matters. Handled cases from initiation, through all aspects of discovery to settlement or trial.

**WOLFENZON SHULMAN & RYAN** – August 2000 – June 2007

Senior Litigation Attorney in a medium sized insurance defense office, handling and overseeing numerous matters through litigation, trial and appeal. Worked with insured's on behalf of large insurance carriers in a range of litigated matters from serious personal injury, professional liability, and employment matters to complex construction defect cases. Work included taking and defending depositions, motion practice, trial and appellate work.

**CAMPBELL, WOLFENZON, SOUHRADA & VOLK** August 1997 – August 2000

Associate attorney in a busy civil insurance defense firm defending matters assigned by insurance companies. The types of cases were diverse, and included, the representation of subcontractors in serious personal injury matters, construction defect matters, real estate disputes, general business litigation, and wrongful termination, discrimination and employment cases.

**GOLDEN EAGLE INSURANCE COMPANY** October 1996 – August 1997

Attorney/litigation examiner on numerous complex commercial general liability claims which included, complex and severe injuries, environmental claims, construction defect, pollution and trademark infringement. Duties included coverage determinations, setting of reserves, and the complete handling and adjusting of the claims, as well as providing direction to assigned counsel.

**LAW OFFICES OF DOUGLAS S. RAFNER** June 1992 – October 1996

Sole practitioner in a litigation practice handling primarily employment related wrongful termination, wage and hour law, and discrimination matters, as well as litigating business disputes and personal injury cases. Practice involved substantial litigation and trial work.

**EDUCATION & TRAINING**

NCRC – Advanced Mediation Training – August 2011

Straus Institute For Dispute Resolution – Pepperdine University School of Law - June 2010

Thomas Jefferson School of Law – J. D., 1991  
Law Review, Asst. Editor

California State University, Northridge - B.A. Speech Communication, 1988

**MEMBERSHIPS**

- **San Diego Superior Court Mediation Panel**
- **California State Bar, Admitted -1992**
- **Admitted to Practice in the Central and Southern Federal District Courts**

**COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

**DEL MAR UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT** – November 2010 – Present

Currently serving as president of school board serving grades K-6. This is an elected position. Duties include approval of all aspects of policy, curriculum, employment, and budgeting for a medium sized school district. Intimately involved in application of The Brown Act, and involved in decisions affecting the district's special education and retirement programs.

**THOMAS JEFFERSON SCHOOL OF LAW** – January 2015 – Present

Adjunct professor at ABA Accredited Law School. Teaching Introduction to Mediation and Negotiation class for second and third year law students. Faculty Advisor to ADR Society