



*Biographical Information*  
**David Jafari, Esq.**

**AREAS OF PRACTICE:**

Business & Commercial Law and Manufacturing • Patents, Trademark & Copyrights • Contracts • Trade Secret Trade Dress Protection • Counterfeiting Defense • Enforcement • Partnership Dissolution • Director Liability • Fiduciary • Obligations • Derivative Actions • Fraudulent Transfer of Assets • Employment Discrimination • Wrongful Termination

David Jafari has been litigating employment cases including PAGA since 2010 when he started his own boutique firm, Jafari Law Group (“JLG”). David started his legal career as an associate attorney at Blakely Sokoloff Taylor & Zaffman and then moved to McDermott Will & Emery out of Washington D.C. to learn the intricacies of complex trials including a major case before the ITC. What distinguishes David from other mediators is the fact that he started his employment practice by representing mostly employers but also represented employees over the last 10 years of his practice. This truly dual-representation opportunity has equipped David with a unique understanding of the mind-set of both sides of the dispute in employment litigation. David believes that particularly in employment cases, there are a lot of hurt emotions and an effective mediator is one that understands that dynamic fist hand. “People start the litigation, and people have to end it”. The fired employee feels betrayed, humiliated, ashamed, and all out angry and the employer believes a “shake-down” is in progress. The truth usually lies somewhere in the middle and David’s wisdom developed over 21 years of litigation and his understanding and knowledge of labor laws including, discrimination, retaliation, sexual harassment, and Wage & Hour allows him to navigate the mediation process to a safe compromised resolution.

David has been the lead trial attorney in more than 150 cases in both state and federal courts in California as well as other jurisdictions. Throughout his last dozen cases, he has developed an expertise in complex multi-plaintiff Wage & Hour claims including representative actions under the Private Attorney General Act or PAGA. These cases involve an original plaintiff with the earliest-filed PAGA notice followed by several subsequent plaintiffs with later filed notices. Resolution of these types of cases must be approved by the presiding judge under the statute and that requires a mediator who appreciates what it takes to get the motion for approval of the settlement granted.

Otherwise, the entire mediation is a wasted opportunity and parties would have to start all over again costing them thousands of dollars. The same applies to class action litigation based on PAGA claims. They are tricky and not every mediator appreciates that but David does!

David migrated to the United States in the late 1970s from Iran. He studied electrical engineering and received his master's degree from the GWU. After a successful engineering career, he decided to go to law school and pursue his passion of studying the law. He graduated cum laude and ranked third in his graduating class of 1999. He clerked for the Honorable Justice Sheila Prell Sonenshein at the California court of appeal drafting opinions in both civil and criminal cases. He is fluent in Farsi and Spanish and has a good understanding of French. He is a long-distance runner and loves to cook and entertain with his wife of 25 years. In addition to running his own practice for the last 15 years and mediating part time, he is also an adjunct professor at his alma mater, Western State University, College of Law teaching Intellectual Property Law. David's motto in life has been and will always be: "Skilled Sailors are not Made in Calm Seas."

### **Languages**

- ♦ Farsi, Spanish and some French