



Q&A WITH Judge Ronald E. Cox (Ret.)

Please provide a snapshot of your legal career prior to joining JAMS.

Following graduation from West Point, I served as an officer in the U.S. Army for over four years. I then resigned my commission to attend law school. Upon graduation from the University of Washington School of Law, I joined the firm now known as K&L Gates, where I became a litigation partner. My practice included banking, real estate, municipal and environmental law. I left the firm to become a judge on the Washington State Court of Appeals, where I oversaw a variety of civil and criminal cases. I served for over 23 years before joining JAMS in 2018.

What are some of the highlights of your career to date, whether in alternative dispute resolution (ADR) or litigation?

When I was in private practice, I was one of the lead attorneys representing the state of Alaska in the litigation following the massive oil spill by the oil tanker Exxon Valdez in Prince William Sound. It was a fascinating case, and I learned a great deal about natural resources, environmental law and the petroleum business.

How would you describe your mediation and arbitration styles?

As for arbitration, my style is much the same as when I was a judge. Specifically, I firmly believe in hearing date certainty. The prompt, inexpensive and fair resolution of disputes is also a high priority of mine.

Mediation is where I try to develop a rapport with the parties and then lead each through a discussion of the strengths and weaknesses of their individual cases. I also suggest, where appropriate and based on many years of experience as a judge, how I believe a case is likely to

be resolved if it goes to trial. Mediation also provides an opportunity for creative solutions that does not exist in a courtroom setting.

What do you enjoy most about mediating?

In many ways, mediation is like solving a puzzle. The challenges include figuring out what the parties need and how to lead them to resolution.

Are there any practice areas that you are particularly interested in developing at JAMS?

Yes. Given my vast experience in appellate neutral analysis, I believe I can be a major asset to parties in dispute. I look forward to expanding my practice within this area. Additionally, I would like to broaden my ADR practice to include banking, real estate and employment law.

What is the most pivotal development or change needed to improve diversity and inclusion in ADR?

I think it's essential that service providers not only recognize that diversity and inclusion is integral to the continued success of ADR, but also take action to promote it.

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What would a diverse panel of arbitrators bring to evaluating a case and rendering an award?

Essential to resolving any dispute is the need for the parties to know they have been heard. In the increasingly diverse society in which we live, it is easier to satisfy that need when panelists include those who have had the same or similar experiences as the parties.

If you could meet and chat with any person throughout history, living or not, who would that be and why?

I have always been very interested in history. About a year ago, I read Walter Isaacson's biography on Leonardo da Vinci. What a fascinating person! I would love to converse with him.

What is the best piece of advice you have received?

Do not underestimate what you can accomplish. Throughout my careers as soldier, lawyer and judge, I have consistently been reminded that setting high goals generally results in higher performance.

Judge Cox is available to conduct virtual or remote mediations and other ADR proceedings on a variety of online platforms, including Zoom. To schedule a case, visit jamsadr.com/cox or call 206.292.0441.

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