



JAMS SPOTLIGHT

Daniel B. Garrie, Esq.



Tell us about your background prior to joining JAMS.

I have been a serial entrepreneur almost all my life. Even before my current companies, I built and sold several startups. Before entering the legal profession, I was a technology executive at several large financial institutions and worked for various federal agencies in technology and cybersecurity. Before my time at JAMS, I was a neutral and special master at Alternative Resolution Center for a decade.

What are your practice area strengths?

Having a deep understanding of both technology and the law enables me to resolve complex, high-stakes disputes efficiently and cost-effectively. I specialize in business/commercial, cybersecurity and trade secret theft related employment cases, IP and smart contracts/blockchain disputes. I have been appointed as a special master/discovery referee in numerous cases.

What is a forensic neutral?

A forensic neutral is a digital forensic expert appointed by a court or an attorney to manage electronic discovery; resolve complex discovery disputes; and locate, extract, handle and analyze digital evidence in instances where neutrality is critical. Essentially, a forensic neutral finds and evaluates digital evidence from an unbiased perspective to resolve disputes on behalf of an arbitration panel or court.

Tell us about some cases where you have been a discovery master/referee.

I have been a discovery master/referee in a wide range of cases, such as those that require discovery and forensics on vehicles, medical devices, oil rigs, robots, supercomputers and other unique and specialized mechanical devices. I have also served as a discovery referee in probate, intellectual property, family law and complex civil disputes all over the United States, often leveraging my expertise and experience working with technology.

I was recently appointed to an eight-figure arbitration dispute in the health care sector involving multiple claims, including trade secret and billing disputes. My work involved creating a protocol, executing the protocol and producing a report and recommendation to the arbitrator in under 45 days. The work involved 50-plus repositories, consisting of physical devices, email accounts and cloud backups. In the 45 days, I also recovered the deleted files and data from these repositories. I conducted a robust forensic analysis of user activity, processed and searched over 15 million files, and identified other potential repositories that were not provided.

What do you enjoy most about being a neutral?

As a neutral, I enjoy the opportunity to use both my technical and legal knowledge.

What spurred you to pursue a career in law?

It was a very personal decision for two main reasons. First, the legal world has always been a part of my family history. Both my grandfathers were lawyers in the United States and Romania. Second, I realized that I enjoy using both sides of my brain daily, and I wanted to find a way to combine my technical and creative skills. Becoming a lawyer allowed me to do this.

What are your most successful traits as a mediator?

One is my ability to develop pragmatic solutions to highly technical problems by balancing a deep understanding of legal and technical intricacies with communication that prevents getting mired in the minutiae. Often parties talk past one another. I am able to immediately earn the respect of the parties due to my knowledge and experience. As a result, I can keep the parties focused on the big picture while still demonstrating respect for and mastery of the details. The parties do not feel the need to argue the details to me because I get it, so I can dispense with much of the preliminary banter and get down to solutions that work in the real world. I have the technical expertise to accommodate every level of competence of the participants in mediations.

What are your most successful traits as an arbitrator?

When I hear an argument, I can objectively look at the facts, the same way I evaluate the 1s and 0s in a technical context. I also use my unique discovery expertise and experience to streamline the discovery process, saving parties substantial time and resources.

Tell us something interesting about you that most people would be surprised to learn about you?

I love to ski and play the cello!

When you are not at work what do you do for fun?

I enjoy spending time with my wife and kids, traveling and learning.

Daniel B. Garrie, Esq. is a JAMS neutral based in Los Angeles. He is available nationwide as an e-discovery special master, forensic neutral, mediator and arbitrator. To schedule a case, visit jamsadr.com/garrie or call 213-253-9706.