Jerry Kurland always wanted to become a mediator. Even as far back in college “as student body president at UCLA, I was able to utilize my skills in bringing together very diverse interests in order to resolve difficult problems. As a lawyer, I trained as a mediator and volunteered in many settlement programs.” While working as in-house counsel at a large real estate development company, Kurland built up a part-time mediation practice. “When JAMS and Endispute merged, I became one of the first attorney-mediators in the new company. From there, I built a practice largely around my history in the real estate and construction communities.”

Kurland continues to handle all types of complex commercial and construction matters, including cases involving impact and delay, defects, inverse condemnation and environmental claims. His construction cases include matters relating to bridges, pipelines, wastewater plants, university and sports facilities and high-rise residential projects. “I’m proud of becoming accepted as a neutral who can be trusted, will never breach confidences and will follow up at every opportunity. I don’t go from one mediation to another doing nothing. The hard work is what’s in between sessions. I’m trying to work with counsel to develop every possible idea and creative option to get a case settled. My caseload includes the most difficult matters that need someone who can manage large groups of people and issues in an organized fashion.”

ADR, as opposed to litigation, will continue to gain widespread acceptance as the preferred way to resolve disputes. “Most litigants in virtually every field of the law now try to settle their cases before spending time and money in the formal discovery process.” ADR will continue to expand outside the United States.