

## JAMS Adds An Experienced Mediator In Houston

By James Mills

*Law360 (September 5, 2025, 9:48 AM EDT)* -- The alternative dispute resolution service JAMS is expanding its mediation team, announcing this week it has added a former litigator and general counsel turned mediator as a neutral in Houston.

Heather McFarlane joined JAMS after working as an attorney and mediator/arbitrator for the past 15 years, the last six running her own mediation firm. Earlier in her career, she was a commercial litigator with Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP, and before that Fulbright & Jaworski LLP, now known as Norton Rose Fulbright.



Heather McFarlane

McFarlane will be based in the JAMS resolution center in Houston, but will also be available for online sessions.

In a Thursday interview, McFarlane told Law360 she is the president of the Association of Attorney-Mediators, a national organization. She works closely with AAM's immediate past president, Lisbeth Bulmash, a mediator with JAMS in Dallas.

"[Lisbeth] has been talking to me about JAMS for some time," McFarlane said. "She convinced me to look into JAMS, and now I am looking forward to having a platform for marketing and getting more work."

She likes that JAMS offers an international platform and offices all over the country.

"The kind of work that I did as an advocate — intellectual property work and large, complex multiparty matters — JAMS just was the best fit for me," McFarlane said.

She plans to primarily handle intellectual property matters — including patent infringement, trademark infringement, copyright infringement and trade secrets.

She also plans to handle general contract disputes and "business divorces," which include disputes within closely held businesses or family businesses that are having trouble with their corporate governance.

"IP matters and contract disputes are areas that I practiced in as an advocate," McFarlane said. "The thing that makes me great for these types of cases is when there are a lot of moving parts, a lot of

options on the table, things for people to consider, I'm a very creative person. The cases where I do better are the cases where we can explore a lot of business options. I have a lot of experience that allows me to help the parties brainstorm, ideas that maybe they hadn't thought about."

JAMS was founded in 1979 as Judicial Arbitration and Mediation Services. It now has 29 locations and a roster of over 500 neutrals.

"Heather McFarlane is an incredibly accomplished mediator who values the individual perspectives of everyone she serves," Kimberly Taylor, JAMS CEO and president, said in a statement Wednesday. "Her career reflects a deep knowledge of challenging legal issues and a dedication to mutually beneficial and lasting resolutions. Her breadth of experience and thoughtful, detail-oriented approach will be a valuable addition to our panel."

McFarlane earned her law degree in 1998 at the University of Texas School of Law after earning her bachelor's degree in English at the College of William and Mary in Virginia.

She worked 10 years with Fulbright & Jaworski, then moved to Morgan Lewis, according to her LinkedIn profile.

In 2010, she moved to the Kubiak Law Firm PLLC, where she began doing mediations while also working as general counsel for a number of small businesses that didn't have in-house counsel. Then, in 2019, she opened her own mediation service, McFarlane Mediations.

McFarlane, who was born in Louisiana and raised in the Atlanta area, started in mediation by default as a child. She was the only girl in a family where she had three brothers and three stepbrothers. As a result, everyone in the family came to her to settle people down and to straighten out problems.

Once she became a lawyer, she found she still liked the mediation aspects of the job. So, at age 35, she started working professionally as a mediator.

"Even when I was working as an advocate, I was always looking for the most efficient result," McFarlane said. "There's so much windup that can be involved in litigation — sometimes it's very necessary, I'm not suggesting it isn't — but my eye was always toward, 'How do I solve the problem?' I realized the legal system gave us only one path to settle and there are so many paths to settlement. I felt like it was a wonderful transition to move to ADR."

--Editing by Robert Rudinger.