



What practice areas are you particularly interested in developing at JAMS?

My interests extend to all areas of commercial law, but I'm particularly interested in business-to-business conflicts involving mergers and acquisitions, supply contracts, product defects and other areas that lend themselves to a resolution that allows the parties to maintain their business relationship. I'm also interested in disputes arising from the sports and entertainment industries, as well as insurance coverage disputes. Bankruptcy judges are called upon to decide issues of valuation and professional compensation frequently, and I have a great deal of experience deciding issues in those subject areas.

How would you describe your settlement style?

Labeling mediation styles as evaluative or facilitative is overly simplistic. Although my style tends to be evaluative, every mediation is unique, which requires me to tailor my approach to the specific people and problems I'm dealing with.

Which of your traits are most useful in helping others reach settlement?

By being fully conversant in the facts and law, I am able to strip away the background noise and distractions and help the mediating parties focus on the core elements of their dispute. I'm known for my doggedness in pursuing a resolution, which includes staying as late as necessary to get a deal done.

For you, how does neutral evaluation factor into achieving a successful settlement?

Neutral evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of parties' cases is a key element in most mediations, but it can also be of value outside of the mediation context. For example, I assisted a trustee in evaluating witnesses and arguments in the largest Ponzi scheme in history, served as a mock judge in a case that led to one of the largest environmental settlements on record and assisted a debtor in an appeal to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals involving complex bankruptcy issues.

How would you describe your approach to arbitration?

I strongly believe that the arbitration process should be more efficient, cost-effective and expeditious than going to trial. I pursue that goal by taking a very active role in managing the arbitration process from the demand to the final award.

What else should we know about you?

I've taken the oral histories of 35 prominent figures in the field of bankruptcy. They are kept in the online library of the National Bankruptcy Archives of the University of Pennsylvania Law School.

I went to Kosovo in 2007 and 2008 at the behest of USAID to assist with the reorganization of a mining conglomerate called Trepca. Nothing much came from my efforts, but it was a fascinating experience nonetheless.



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