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CATHY YANNI

JAMS



CHAMPIONSHIP PEDIGREE Cathy Yanni worked as a discovery referee in San Mateo County and was involved in that court's initial ADR court requirements. "I started in 1994, and the statute passed around that time. We were required to put together ADR opportunities as part of the committee. I was making up the forms for different types of ADR and working to set up the ADR system. I realized there had to be better ways than trial, so I went to the Harvard Mediation Program and discovered it was a good way to be creative and help people at the same time."

EXPERIENCE & EXPERTISE Yanni views her practice in two sections. "The first is national MDL/class-action cases, and the second is the cases that deal with individuals. In recent years I've done more big MDL cases, but I like to have local cases too." Among her MDL matters, she currently serves as special master in the national opioid litigation in Cleveland. "I'm working with cities, counties, hospitals and tribes that have brought suit against manufacturers and distributors of opioids. So far, there are 400 consolidated cases. It's the biggest and most complicated case I've ever worked on, because it deals with social, political and business issues." Her work on the local side includes employment matters such as discrimination and sexual harassment cases. "I've done those my whole career. I can feel like I'm really helping plaintiffs and employers come to a satisfactory solution that's better than hand-to-hand combat."

FUTURE VISION There are growing numbers of cases involving privacy and data breaches. "That work is on the horizon and will not be going away anytime soon." Pharmaceutical and medical device work should continue as well. "I like working in that arena and find it very rewarding."

