

## **JEFFREY M. BASES, ESQ., MEDIATOR**

Practical and effective, Mr. Bases is known for quickly getting to the crux of the matter, for assessing the risks and particular circumstances, for his straightforward communication, for his long-term perspective, and for taking care to discern between that which is important from that which is trivial. Mr. Bases has over 32 years of complex litigation experience serving as lead counsel in highly contested matters (e.g., business, partnership, real property, construction defect, contested estates / trusts, serious personal injury and wrongful death matters), which has helped him succeed in mediating for over 20 years.

## **CURRICULAM VITAE**

- President of Bases & Bases, A Professional Corporation, since 2003.
- AV rated Martindale-Hubbell: 5.0 / 5.0: legal ability + ethics
- Admitted in State and U.S. Federal Court.

Repeated guest commentator on KFWB's "Money 101" with Bob McCormick and invited commentator on CBS Radio LA/ KNX 1070 News Radio on real estate legal matters.

## **EDUCATION**

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY LAW CENTER, J.D. (1991).  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA - BERKELEY, B.A. (1987), WITH HONORS.

## **MEDIATIONS**

Mr. Bases, a professional mediator for over twenty years, has mediated hundreds of disputes including complex real property, construction defect, business, partnership and corporate litigation, contested estates /trusts, and serious personal injury matters. He participated as a mediator on the Los Angeles Superior Court Alternative Dispute Resolution program for more than 10 years (both the pro bono and the paid panels) and is a recipient of numerous certificates of recognition in appreciation from the Presiding Judge of the Los Angeles Superior Court and the Chair of the Court Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee for his years of service. Mr. Bases received an Outstanding Mediator Founder's Circle Award from the Mediation Center of Los Angeles (MCLA), where he is on the Court Referral-Vendor

Resource panels of the MCLA; he also has a private mediation practice. His article on mediation confidentiality, "The Grease that Oils the Machine of Mediation" (published: Los Angeles Daily Journal and San Francisco Daily Journal on October 28, 2011) was cited by the California Law Review Commission and attached in its Staff Memorandum, Study K-402, April 7, 2014, Memorandum 2014-14, titled, "Relationship Between Mediation Confidentiality and Attorney Malpractice and Other Misconduct: Law in Other Jurisdictions".

## **MEDIATION STYLE**

Having participated in hundreds of litigated matters, Mr. Bases understands the process and importance of mediation to resolve disputes. He endeavors to understand parties' positions in context (taking account of facts, law, and personal circumstances of parties), to be practical, to elicit the use of common sense among the parties, their counsel, and to thoroughly explore with each of the parties and their counsel each party's particular options and risks, all to help the parties reach agreement so that all parties can obtain resolution and closure of the issue(s).

*On a recent interview, Mr. Bases answered the following questions about his Mediation style:*

### **1. How do you handle complex or highly emotional cases?**

I am aware that most cases are highly emotional and deeply personal for the parties, and for many attorneys. It is not only a question of money or inconvenience; most parties have been deeply personally affected by the litigation. I make a real effort to listen to all parties and convey that I have heard and acknowledged the financial and emotional impact the matter has had on them. I am always searching for creative ways to find resolution and compromise in complex multi-party / multiclaim cases. I approach complex cases like a puzzle. I endeavor to break the cases down to component parts (puzzle pieces), with an awareness of the bigger picture, knowing that certain parts may be more impactful and helpful to resolve other aspects of the case. The resolution of each component part brings the parties closer to settling the matter. There is great satisfaction in finding that missing piece of the jigsaw puzzle which brings the case to settlement.

### **2. What do you believe are the key qualities of an effective mediator?**

An effective mediator looks for ways to get the parties to compromise, taking into consideration each side's vulnerabilities and strengths. Rarely does a side have a flawless position. A good mediator will make sure that each side understands the other's position and perspective, and explore with each side separately how the other side's arguments might impact their position. Sometimes, breaking up and analyzing the plaintiff's claims one by one helps separate the strong claims from the weaker ones. An effective mediator realizes the value of closure and persuades the parties that closure is often more valuable than the money at stake.

### 3. What inspired you to become a mediator?

I like to help people resolve conflicts. The litigation system is designed to be zero-sum, with a winner and a loser. But life isn't always so clear cut; nor is the outcome of litigation. Often, parties on both sides suffer while they are in litigation. Mediation is a process that can help bring immediate resolution or at least closure to litigated matters. The value of closure should not be underestimated. Life is short. To actively participate and help bring about the immediate solution of litigated matters inspires me.