



Arbitration & Mediation Services

Stephen Lepley, J.D., LL.M.

Mediator/Arbitrator



AREAS OF PRACTICE

Racketeering , Financial, Business, Catastrophic Injury

Mr. Lepley is an experienced civil trial and appellate lawyer, with more than 40 years private and government law practice, including appointments as a County Corporation Counsel and an Attorney General Chief Counsel. In 2015 he received his Master of Laws (LL.M.) degree in Dispute Resolution with a Concentration in Mediation, from the Straus Institute in Dispute Resolution at Pepperdine Law School in Malibu, the nation’s top-ranked program. He was asked to serve as the program’s interim Director of Operations, and later as its Director of Professional Outreach, and has taught Negotiation Theory and Practice there as an Adjunct Professor since 2017. Steve has mediated and arbitrated hundreds of cases throughout his legal career, and in 2014 formed California Dispute Resolution Professionals, LLC. Mr. Lepley has conducted highly complex multi-week court and jury trials and authored dozens of state and federal appellate briefs, receiving state and national awards for his advocacy. Successful negotiations include the nationally recognized 2010 civil racketeering settlement with Western Union Financial Services, Inc., providing for monetary payments of \$94 million.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2017 - Adjunct Professor of Law, Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution, Pepperdine University School of Law
- 2017 - 2019 Director of Operations, Director of Professional Outreach, Straus Institute
- 2014 - Mediator/Arbitrator, California Dispute Resolution Professionals, LLC
- 2004 - 2011 Chief Counsel, Financial Remedies Section, Criminal Division, and Assistant Attorney General, Office of the Arizona Attorney General
- 1997 - 2004 Private law practice, Nearhood & Lepley PLLC, LaMar/Lepley PLC
- 1992 - 1997 Assistant Attorney General, Tax Section, Civil Division, Office of the Arizona Attorney General
- 1991 - 1992 Jaburg/Wilk, Attorneys at Law, Phoenix, Arizona
- 1978 - 1991 Corporation Counsel and Assistant Corporation Counsel, Waukesha County and Winnebago County, Wisconsin

18013 Sky Park Circle Irvine, CA 92612
Orange County Office: 949.231.1482 | Inland Empire Office: 909.466.1665
mediations@trustArray.com

EDUCATION

- LL.M. in Dispute Resolution, with Concentration in Mediation, Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution, Pepperdine University School of Law 2015
- J.D., Marquette University School of Law 1978
- B.S., Tulane University, Psychology 1974

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS, OFFICES AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

- State Bar of Arizona 1991-present
- State Bar of Wisconsin 1978-2008
- Los Angeles County Bar Association
- President, Pepperdine/Straus American Inn of Court for Dispute Resolution 2017-2019
- Association for Conflict Resolution
- Mediation.org
- Southern California Mediation Association 2013-2019
- California Association of Realtors Consumer Mediation Center Panel
- International Association of Chiefs of Police ChoicePoint First-Place Award for Excellence in Criminal Financial Investigations 2007
- Arizona Attorney General Award of Historic Distinction 2010
- Police Officer Standards Training instructor 2009-2011
- President, Board of Directors, Stonegate Community Association 2000-2004
- Vice President and Director, Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Arizona 1994-1997
- Licensed Real Estate Broker, Wisconsin 1976-1991
- Graduate, Arizona Trial College 1993
- Graduate, Wisconsin Academy of Trial Lawyers 1986

MEDIATION PHILOSOPHY

- Mediation assisted by an experienced and trained dispute resolution professional is an intelligent, cost-effective, expeditious, and self-determined alternative to the significant expense, time, and unpredictability of litigation. Decades of trial experience, much of it relating to complex financial matters, equips a mediator to recognize and understand disputes in which monetary damages are at issue. Years of study of dispute resolution at a top national program, together with teaching the subject of negotiation to professional degree students, equips a mediator with the skills needed to bring disputing parties to a successful settlement result. Sincere interest in the perspectives and needs of each party to a mediation is key in finding the common ground from which a settlement may be reached. I work to bring training, experience and perspective to all mediations in which I serve as third-party neutral, leading to a high rate of mediation success.

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