



## *Biographical Information*

### **Patricia D. Barrett, Esq.**

Ms. Barrett has been successful in resolving civil disputes in multiple forums, including arbitration, mediation and mandatory settlement conferences. She has the ability to listen, build rapport with the parties and counsel, and is persistent in working toward resolution. Ms. Barrett's philosophy is that all civil cases can, should and will settle and she works toward that goal with each new case.

#### **EDUCATION/TRAINING:**

- Juris Doctorate, Western State University, College of Law, Fullerton, 1980;
- Master of Arts, Pepperdine University, Psychology, 1969;
- Bachelor of Arts, Azusa Pacific University, Psychology, 1968.
- Mediation, Factfinding in the Public Sector, Southwest Regional Training Center, Los Angeles
- 30-hours training in Mediation, University of California, Riverside
- 42 hours training - Mediating the Litigated Case, Pepperdine University offered by the Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution and California Academy of Mediation Professionals, May & June, 2001

#### **DISPUTE RESOLUTION/ NEUTRAL THIRD PARTY EXPERIENCE:**

- Hearing officer in over 100 school district disciplinary hearings since 1980.
- Fact Finder in matters relating to Employment, Discrimination and General Investigation of employee grievances.
- Member of Judicial Arbitration Panel for San Bernardino Superior Court since 1989 arbitrating cases in the following areas (over 500 matters handled):
- Private mediation, arbitration, voluntary settlement conferences for personal injury, uninsured motorist claims and employment matters.

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**LEGAL EXPERIENCE:**

- Counsel for school district including labor negotiations, policy writing, consultation on employer-employee relations.
- Private practice since 1982 representing clients in business, employment and estate planning matters.
- Employment matters including wage/hour, discrimination, sexual harassment, wrongful termination, defamation, invasion of privacy, contract disputes, In employment law matters, approximately fifty percent of practice representing plaintiffs (employees) and fifty percent representing defendants (employers). Served as contract counsel for California Department of Corrections, Los Angeles Community College District. Represent private small employers in litigation and transactional employment matters.
- Estate planning.
- Civil litigation and appellate practice in both state and federal courts.
- Law professor at Tri-Community Adult School, Court Reporting, two years.

**BUSINESS EXPERIENCE:**

- Director of Classified Personnel, Lowell Joint School District, Whittier, CA
- Director of Classified Personnel, Palm Springs Unified School District, Palm Springs, CA
- Personnel Consultant for school districts in affirmative action, classification, salary matters, rules and regulations, policies and procedures
- Director of private educational institution

**PROFESSIONAL LICENSES:**

- Admitted to practice before all California courts, the Federal District Courts for the Central and Southern Districts of California and the Federal Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals