

IVAMS

ARBITRATION & MEDIATION SERVICES



Biographical Information

HON. MARTHA E. BELLINGER Judge of the Superior Court

Martha Bellinger served on the Los Angeles Superior Court as both a commissioner and judge for over 20 years. During that time she served in the dependency courts, delinquency courts, adult criminal proceedings, and four years in the family law courts in Pomona. She retired July 31, 2011 as supervising judge of the East District delinquency courts. During her four years in the family law courts of Pomona, she authored over 292 decisions on submitted matters, and was known for her calm and pleasant demeanor with a particular emphasis on what was in the best interests of children in custody disputes. She specializes in family law matters, and particularly welcomes members of the LGBT community to the mediation table where they will find a judge who wants to assist them in ending their partnership and marriage dissolutions with respect, equality and fairness.

Before becoming a jurist, Judge Bellinger worked in a Century City law firm in the area of civil litigation and then served as Assistant Legal Counsel for the Pomona Claremont-Bonita School districts in 1983. In 1984 she joined the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office spending three years in misdemeanor and felony trials before joining the Appellate Division of that office and writing an amicus brief in the United States Supreme Court case of *Payne v. Tennessee* (1991). Before entering the legal profession, Judge Bellinger served as an ordained parish minister in the United Methodist Church and next as a probation officer for Madison County, New York.

Her educational background includes a B.A. from Syracuse University (1972), divinity studies at Princeton Theological School of Theology from 1972-1974, a Master of Theology degree from Boston University School of Theology (1975), and her law degree from Whittier College School of Law in 1982 where she served as Editor-in-Chief of the Law Review. She is the recipient of numerous community service awards during her time on the bench, and has been a frequent public speaker concerning children and the law. She served as an adjunct professor of law at La Verne University College of Law from 1988-2006, and rejoined the adjunct faculty in 2011 receiving awards for excellence in legal education.

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