



Biographical Information

Thomas C. Watts, III, Esq.

Tom Watts is widely accepted as an objective neutral, known for his respectful approach to the people he serves. He has served as a settlement judge pro tem in Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. He participates on the neutral panels in Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties since 1985. He is a Settlement Officer with the U.S. District Court, Central Division. Tom joined IVAMS panel of neutrals in 2007.

People have said that Tom Watts is *especially effective in difficult and emotion-laden disputes*. He is *a quick study*; he gets a *fast grasp on complex issues*. Tom understands people and the lawyers that represent them. He is patient, persistent, and polite. *Tom is a like Coach, Confidant, and Confessor*. He is *Trustworthy*. Tom Watts is *talented at keeping parties focused and encouraged*.

His commitment to the field of Dispute Resolution is amply demonstrated by his success in earning a Master of Laws in Degree from the prestigious and nationally recognized Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution. That commitment is reinforced by participating in the yearly Skills Conferences offered at Straus. He has spoken on numerous occasions at professional meetings and to law firms on the subjects including Mediation Advocacy and Cognitive Bias. Mr. Watts has written numerous articles and papers on current topics in the Dispute Resolution field. One of Tom's hobbies was wrenching on cars and has handled both sides of lemon law litigation. In addition, he has mediated over a dozen lemon law cases throughout his ADR career.

A member of the California Bar since 1977, Mr. Watts is also admitted to all of California's District Courts, the 9th Circuit of the Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court of the United States. Mr. Watts has gained a strong background of experience and understanding in civil litigation and transactional conflicts. His close personal connection to clients has carried over into his dispute resolution practice approach.

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In addition to his depth in educational credentials, Mr. Watts has been a civil trial lawyer for more than thirty years. He has served as arbitrator and mediator on superior court panels for more than 20 of those years. In that time he has assisted in the resolution of many hundreds of cases involving business, real-estate, contract, employment, trade secret, commercial, personal injury and catastrophic property damage. His full-time dispute resolution practice was started in 2004 and is devoted to helping people through and beyond the conflict adversely affecting their lives.

While involved in the trial or resolution of cases throughout the state, Mr. Watts has always maintained his strong roots in Southern California. Married for 30 years, he is the father of two daughters. He is an avid Outdoorsman and fervent golfer. Tom is also active in youth sports and civic affairs, currently serving on the Yorba Linda Parks and Recreation Commission after almost 20 years as a competitive Soccer Coach. He attended Chapman University and Western State Law School before earning the Master of Laws (LLM) degree from the Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution at Pepperdine Law School.

“My clients can expect and will receive:

1. A process that is uniquely tailored to the dispute, the parties, and their attorneys;
2. Thorough advance preparation and familiarization with the matter and the parties;
3. Assistance to the parties in objectively analyzing their matter; and
4. Persistence and effectiveness in creating and pursuing settlement options.”

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