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ARBITRATION & MEDIATION SERVICES

Biographical Information

Ronald T. Vera, Esq.

Ronald Vera is an attorney with law offices in Claremont, California. Mr. Vera received his law degree from the University of California, Los Angeles in 1973 and received a Bachelor of Science degree from Michigan State University in 1970. His law practice has focused in the areas of education and public law, litigation, with an emphasis on economic development, business, labor, land use and environmental issues. He has been lead or co-counsel in several significant class actions and appellate cases. He has handled numerous trials and advocacy proceedings during his 35 years of practice. Insofar as his public law experience, he has represented numerous public agencies and over fifteen school districts. For the first fourteen years of his practice Mr. Vera handled seminal cases in the education civil rights arena on behalf of students and parents. He is presently legal counsel to public agencies, various school related organizations and also represents numerous education foundations and major non profit corporations.

From 1973 to 1985 Mr. Vera was an attorney with two prominent public interest law firms based in San Francisco, MALDEF and California Rural Legal Assistance, working primarily in the area of education and civil rights. During this time he was counsel on two successful cases in the California Supreme Court, and several cases in the federal courts of appeal. While at CRLA, Mr. Vera served as Staff Attorney, Directing Attorney for a field office, and Deputy Director for the statewide program, overseeing ten offices and 50 attorneys. At MALDEF Mr. Vera directed a special project on higher education issues, under the auspices of the Ford Foundation. After spending 1985-1986 between the University of California Berkeley's School of Education as a Visiting Scholar and the Claremont Graduate School on a postdoctoral fellowship, Mr. Vera has been in private practice in Southern California since 1986. In 1992-1993, Mr. Vera was a Visiting Professor of Law at Loyola Law School and from 1993 to 1999 was an adjunct Professor of Law at Loyola where he taught the Education and Law course.

He currently serves on the Board of Directors of the California Community Foundation, the Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center, the Los Angeles County Fair Association dba Fairplex, and for twenty years has been affiliated with the California Consortium of Education Foundations. Among his other awards, in 1988 Mr. Vera was honored by the Angeles chapter of the Sierra Club receiving a special services award in recognition of his pro bono legal work in environmental cases.

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Mr. Vera has authored several articles on education and the law and served on several national and state advisory committees concerning education equity issues. He also served as a consultant to the Ford Foundation and the Association of American Colleges on increasing Hispanic student access to higher education. From 1984 to 1994 he was a research fellow for the Center for Higher Education and Law at the University of Houston Law School. He is now serving in his fourth year as an advisor to the Kellogg Foundation's Hispanic Border Leadership Institute based at Arizona State University that is addressing education issues along the border states of the United States-Mexican border.

Mr. Vera has considerable experience in dispute resolution matters. While directing the MALDEF higher education project, Mr. Vera was plaintiff's counsel responsible for monitoring the Department of Education Office of Civil Right's compliance efforts at resolving civil rights complaints in a timely fashion, pursuant to the court order in the Adams federal court litigation. Since 1986 he has been retained by various parties to reach mediated settlements in various school personnel cases and between 1995 and 2003 he served as a mediator with the Los Angeles County Superior Courts volunteer mediation program. He has also served as a judge pro tern and, while at Loyola Law School, taught the counseling and negotiation course that focused on dispute resolution. Because of his extensive experience representing both parties and schools in complex education matters he brings a perspective on school related issues that serve him well in school and education dispute resolution cases.