



Edwin A. Oster, Esq.



Results Beyond DisputeSM

Ed Oster is an accomplished, sought after mediator who has mediated cases for clients across 36 states, including nearly 1,000 insurance-related disputes. His skill as a mediator springs from his natural ability to develop genuine relationships built on mutual respect. A top plaintiff's lawyer in Los Angeles says simply, "Extremely smart. Tough. Fair." A New York partner in a national defense firm observed: "He established almost instant rapport all around and painlessly got the job done for all of us." A frequent mediation participant put it this way: "If you could go into a laboratory and put together in one person everything you want in a mediator - experience, integrity, intelligence, creativity, and personality - you would have Ed Oster." Ed's strength as a mediator stems from his 38 years as a trial lawyer handling insurance coverage, bad faith, commercial and real estate litigation at the highest levels. He tried cases in all eleven major counties in Northern and Southern California, in both state and federal court. During that time, he gained a lifetime of experience in all phases of civil litigation, as well as an insider's knowledge of the insurance industry. He earned the trust and confidence of both co-counsel and adversaries, who are now amongst his biggest supporters. Ed passionately believes that the best settlements are those where everyone has achieved value, and that is what he delivers.

LEGAL CAREER & PRIOR EXPERIENCE

- Neutral, Judicate West (2015-Present)
- Partner, Barger & Wolen, specializing in insurance and commercial cases (1990-2013)
- Partner, Cummins & White (1988-1990)
- Partner, Kranz & Oster, subsequently Oster, Schubert & Rutten (1983-1988)
- Partner, Bruck, Kranz & Perry (1980-1983)
- Associate, Cummins, White & Breidenbach, Breidenbach et al (1976-1980)
- Court-appointed arbitrator, Orange County Superior Court
- Judge Pro Tem, Orange County Superior Court

EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Stanford University, B.A., (1972)
- University of California at Davis, King Hall, J.D. (1976)
- Pepperdine School of Law, Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution, "Mediating the Litigated Case" (6-day, 2013)
- Negotiation Institute, Advanced Negotiations for Complex Litigation (2-day, 1988)
- Orange County Superior Court, Mediation Panel
- Orange County Bar Association, Member
- State Bar of California, Member
- Southern California Mediation Association, Member

PRACTICE AREAS

Commercial; ERISA; Healthcare Provider/Payor Disputes; Insurance Coverage and Bad Faith; Life, Health, and Disability; Business, Property, and Casualty; Personal Injury

ACHIEVEMENTS & AWARDS

- Speaker for DRI Life, Health, Disability and ERISA Seminar, "Advanced Mediation Techniques" (2025)
- Speaker for Judicate West Webinar "Mediating ERISA Benefit Disputes: Best Practices" (2023)
- Speaker for Judicate West Webinar "Mediating Insurance Issues: Best Practices" (2021)
- Instructor for College of Claims Mediation, Philadelphia, PA (2015-2020)
- Speaker for American Conference Institute, San Francisco, CA - "Alternative Dispute Resolution and Bad Faith Claims" (2014)
- California State Bar Approved MCLE Provider, "Practice Tips for Better Mediation Results: What Works and Why"

**HOBBIES &
INTERESTS**

Mr. Oster spends as much of his spare time as he can with family, is an avid hiker and amateur astronomer, He enjoys reading history, Mark Twain and Sherlock Holmes.

LOCATIONS

Orange County, Nationwide