



William J. Caplan, Esq.



Results Beyond DisputeSM

William J. Caplan has been a full-time neutral since 2001 and has successfully handled over 1500 civil matters. During his 22 years as a trial lawyer, he specialized primarily in real estate, business, and construction litigation matters. Bill received formal mediation training from Harvard Law School and Pepperdine University's Straus Institute. His enthusiasm for private dispute resolution has led him to author numerous articles. He served as an adjunct professor at the Chapman University School of Law, teaching mediation. Known for having a very high settlement rate, Bill comes to each mediation thoroughly prepared and determined to work with the parties no matter how long it takes. One attorney commented, "He has excellent bedside manner, pushes when people need to be pushed, pulls when they need to be pulled, and uses his own experience in business litigation to try and make the pie bigger so people can get a resolution done." Another prominent attorney noted that "he demonstrated a great grasp of the facts right off the bat, and because of his background, Bill understands other motivations at play in disputes, like preserving a relationship with a customer or keeping the peace between partners."

LEGAL CAREER & PRIOR EXPERIENCE

- Full-time Neutral, Judicate West (2018-Present)
- Mediator (2001 to 2018)
- Los Angeles Superior Court ADR Program (2001-2013)
- Settlement Officer, Orange County Superior Court (1990-Present)
- Of Counsel, Rutan & Tucker (2001-2018)
- Partner, Rutan & Tucker, specializing in real estate, business, construction, and land valuation disputes (1985-2001)
- Associate, Rutan & Tucker (1979 – 1984)
- Caplan & Caplan, specializing in business and real estate litigation (1978-1979)

EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- J.D., University of California Los Angeles School of Law (1978)
- B.A., University of California of Los Angeles, Dean's Honor List (1975)
- Mediation Certificate, Harvard University Program for Lawyers, Harvard Law School (2004)
- Mediating the Litigated Case, Pepperdine Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution (2002)
- Adjunct Professor-Mediation, Chapman University School of Law (August 2006 – 2014)
- American Business Trial Lawyers, Member (ABTL) (2000-Present)
- Mediation Certificate, Center for Community Mediation (1993)
- Central and Eastern District, U.S. District Court, Member

PRACTICE AREAS

All Types of Personal Injury and ADA matters; All Types of Real Estate matters; Business/Contractual; Construction Defects; Employment

ACHIEVEMENTS & AWARDS

- AV Rated by Martindale Hubbell (1985-Present)
- Recipient, Wiley Manual Award for Pro Bono Legal Services (1992)
- MCLE Presenter: Taking Control of Your Disputes – The Inside Scoop, (2018)
- MCLE Presenter: 998 Offers (2018)
- MCLE Presenter: Ethics in Mediation (2016)

HOBBIES & INTERESTS

In his spare time, Bill is involved with his church, enjoys spending time with his family, backpacking, playing basketball, coaching sports and attending sporting events.

LOCATIONS

Orange County, Nationwide

