

Lee Jacobson

Lee M. Jacobson is a full-time mediator/arbitrator and is President of Jacobson Dispute Resolution, APC. After graduating from the University of California at Davis in 1977 with degrees in Political Science and Mass Communications, Lee attended law school at the University of Santa Clara, becoming an associate editor of the Santa Clara Law Review and earning a Juris Doctor degree in 1980. He then began his legal career working for the Ericksen, Arbuthnot law firm specializing in insurance defense litigation where he worked for 7 ½ years before starting his own law firm, Jacobson, Hansen and Najarian in August of 1988 where he continued litigating insurance defense matters.

In 1995 Lee began presiding over mandatory settlement conferences as a Judge Pro Tem in the Fresno County Superior Court. Lee began work as a full-time mediator in 2000 and has been selected as a mediator over 5,000 times. He has been asked to serve as a binding arbitrator on over 100 occasions.

Lee utilizes an evaluative approach to the mediation process, asking the parties to give strong consideration to both the evidentiary and monetary risks they will confront should their matter proceed to trial. He also brings innovative approaches to the negotiation process which go well beyond traditional concepts of distributive bargaining, thereby reducing the likelihood of impasse.

Lee married his wife Peggy in 1985. They have two children: Ross, and Laura.

Educational Background

University of California at Davis, Bachelor of Arts, With Honors, 1977; University of Santa Clara, Juris Doctor, 1980; Admitted to California Bar 1980

Employment History

ERICKSEN, ARBUTHNOT, et al., 1980-1988
JACOBSON, HANSEN, et. al., 1988-2017
JACOBSON DISPUTE RESOLUTION, 2017-Present

Mediation Education, Experience and Professional Associations

International Academy of Mediators -Distinguished Fellow—November 2011-present
President—2018-2019

Completed 25-hour course in mediation training presented by the Dispute Settlement Center of Central California and the San Joaquin College of Law, June 2000.

Attendee:

Pepperdine University Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution: Advanced Mediation Skills and Techniques – June 2005.

Attendee:

Pepperdine University Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution; Specialized Mediation Personal Injury, Employment, and Medical Malpractice Claims – October 2007.

Attendee:

Mediation Skills Workshop, Boston, Mass. – May, 2009

Attendee:

Pepperdine University Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution; Advanced Mediation Skills and Techniques – October, 2009

Attendee:

Pepperdine University Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution; Mediation in the Red Zone -- October 2010, October 2011

Attendee:

Pepperdine University Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution; Mediator Boot Camp – June 2013

Conference Chair:

International Academy of Mediators Spring 2015 Conference San Francisco, Ca

Presenter:

Pepperdine University/Caruso School of Law—February 2024—Malibu, California—Advanced Mediation Workshop—Avoiding potential impasse

Presenter: International Academy of Mediators/ The Hong Kong Mediation Counsel—October 2020—International Commercial Mediation in Asia: The Essentials for the Way Forward: The Challenges and Opportunities which lie ahead for Mediators in a post-Covid world. Effective Distributive Bargaining in Video Conference Mediations.”

Presenter:

Osgoode Hall Law School/York University, Winkler Institute for Dispute Resolution, International Academy of Mediators—May 2019—Toronto Ontario Canada 6th Annual Conference on Mediation: Mediation Styles and Processes “Interactive Process Designs in Mediations”

Presenter:

International Academy of Mediators Spring 2019 Conference Banff, Alberta, Canada - May 2019
“Evaluative Mediation Techniques and Mediator’s Proposals”

Presenter:

Pepperdine University Caruso School of Law—January 2019-- Malibu, California
“Reliance on the Distributive Bargaining Process in Reaching Agreement. Problems, Pitfalls and Potential Solutions”

Presenter:

Taking Commercial Mediation to the Next Level—Zurich Switzerland, November 2018
“The Importance of First Numbers in Commencement of Settlement Negotiations.”

Presenter:

Winkler Institute for Dispute Resolution — Toronto, Ontario, Canada April 2018
"The Evolution of Mediation - Where Are We Going? Mediation has Matured.

Presenter:

International Academy of Mediators — Edinburgh, Scotland, Spring 2018
“Who is the Mediator's Client”

Presenter:

International Academy of Mediators Fall 2017 Conference Austin, TX
Could Mediation Have Saved the Beatles?

Presenter:

Southern California Mediators Association---November 2016 “The Diplomacy of Communicating First Numbers in the Commercial Dispute: Options, Tools and Strategies Essential to Effective Mediation

Presenter:

International Academy of Mediators Fall 2016 Conference Vancouver, BC
PEPP Talk--- "The Rhythm of Mediation" —The Mediation Process as told through Classic Rock Lyrics.

Presenter:

International Academy of Mediators—September 2016 Vancouver, BC, Canada
“Pushing to Close vs. Pushing to Continue.” When calling a time out may be in the best interests of the parties.

Presenter:

American Bar Associations Dispute Resolution Section Conference New York City –
April 2016 “First Demands and First Offers... Striving for a Solid Start”

Presenter:

International Academy of Mediators/Arbitrators and Mediators Institute of New Zealand
Joint Conference – March 2016 “First Demands and First Offers... Striving for a Solid Start”