



**Hon. Donald F. Armento, Ret.
Mediator**

OVERVIEW:

Commissioner Armento has served the legal community as an attorney and judicial officer with passion and dignity for over 30 years. After nearly ten years on the bench, he retired from San Diego Superior Court in January 2018 and now serves as mediator, arbitrator and private judge. As a judge, he presided over a wide variety of civil and criminal matters, including real property, contract, personal injury, business, and commercial actions. During his tenure on the bench, he was highly regarded for having a fair, balanced and pragmatic courtroom demeanor.

Prior to serving on the bench, Comm. Armento was very active as a trial attorney, representing parties in wrongful death, personal injury, real property, insurance, contract, and employment actions. He also was active in the San Diego community, serving as a coach, mentor, arbitrator, settlement officer and Judge Pro Tem.

He has extensive experience in dealing with veterans and veterans' issues, having served in the Marine Corps Reserve for 28 years in various roles, including as a judge advocate. He is passionate about helping service members and veterans better understand the justice system.

While on the bench, Comm. Armento was appointed to several leadership positions with prominent statewide committees, including the Civil Litigation and Restraining Order committees. He has also been extensively involved with the American Inns of Court, having served as a Judicial Master with his Inn since 2009.

Commissioner Armento is passionate about helping parties resolve their disputes in an expeditious, professional, dignified manner, whenever possible.

RATES:

- Hourly - \$500 per hour
- Half day - \$2,500
- Full day - \$5,000
- \$450 administrative fee per party

LEGAL CAREER & PRIOR EXPERIENCE:

Judicial Officer – San Diego Superior Court, San Diego, California, 2009 – 2018; Hear and adjudicate civil and criminal actions including personal injury, contract, employment law, unlawful detainer, landlord-tenant, and real property matters; Conduct arraignments and trials; manage court staff and busy calendars

Litigation Counsel - California Dept. of Transportation, San Diego, California, 2006- 2009; Represent State of California in litigation matters, including wrongful death, personal injury, eminent domain, inverse condemnation, contract, employment law and real property actions

Corporate & Litigation Counsel - Richardson, Bambrick, Cermak & Fair, San Diego, California, 1995 – 2006; Litigated a wide variety of civil actions in state and Federal courts; represented Automobile Club of Southern California and its members in Personal injury, property disputes & actions; Experience in litigating, arbitrating, mediating cases to successful conclusion; Successfully handled several appellate cases.

Staff Judge Advocate – I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, California and Camp Babylon, Iraq, 2001-2003

Served as the legal adviser to Commanding General of I MEF during Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom; mobilized for active duty in November 2001, completed service in November 2003; deployed to Iraq during summer 2003; drafted rules of engagement; handled operational law issues and problems; advised commander on numerous sensitive investigations; experienced in military justice, FOIA and administrative law issues

Litigation Attorney – Neil, Dymott, Perkins, Brown & Frank, San Diego, California, 1987-1994; civil litigation involving medical malpractice defense, products liability, personal injury, breach of contract, real property disputes and inverse condemnation actions; Experienced in all phases of civil discovery, arbitrations, mediations and trials.

Judge Advocate – U.S. Marine Corps, Camp Pendleton, California, 1983-1986; Served as defense counsel, trial counsel and deputy staff judge advocate, handling courts-martial, administrative discharge proceedings and military justice matters; helped implement urinalysis testing for all active-duty service members.

Active in Marine Corps Reserve since 1986, serving as judge Advocate at numerous commands.

Member, State Bar of California, 1986 – Present

Member, San Diego County Bar Association, 1987 – Present

Colonel, United States Marine Corps Reserve (Ret.)

Admitted to practice in Wisconsin, U.S. District Courts, Central and Southern California, U.S. Court of Military Appeals

EDUCATION

- Bachelor of Arts, Hamilton College, Clinton, New York
 - Major in Government, June 1978
- Juris Doctorate, Marquette University Law School
 - Milwaukee, Wisconsin, May 1982
- Master of Business Administration, National University
 - San Diego, California, June 2015

TESTIMONIALS

“Thank you, Don, for your help getting us all to resolution of our case. You certainly have a gift as a mediator. You never pressured us or twisted our arms, and you had a great rapport with our clients. I doubt we would have achieved this result without you. We truly enjoyed working with you and look forward to working with you again.”

- *Russell S. Kohn, Esq., Kohn Law Office, Oceanside, CA.*

“Mr. Armento was terrific! He was prepared and fought to get a great resolution for our clients. I was impressed that he contacted me before the mediation to get a head start on what the issues were. Not many mediators do that and I felt that he was truly interested in getting the case settled, which he did. I would definitely use him again and recommend him to others.”

- *Suzanne Skolnick, Esq., Skolnick Law, A Professional Law Corporation, Oceanside, CA*

“My client and I genuinely appreciated Don Armento's attentive and compassionate approach. Mr. Armento's dedication to listening and understanding truly stood out. He conducted the mediation with respect and support, which hugely contributed to the settling of our case.”

- *Christopher Scott-Dixon, Esq., Law Office of Christopher Scott-Dixon, San Diego, CA*

To schedule a mediation, please contact Smhale "Sammi" Leon at 619-238-7282 or sleon@WestCoastResolution.com, or email Don directly at darmento@westcoastresolution.com.