

James F. Pokorny, Esq.
Mediator

OVERVIEW:

Jim Pokorny has been a licensed California attorney for 50 years, handling literally thousands of cases in state as well as federal courts. Many of these cases were tried to juries. The cases that did not result in jury trials often were resolved with the intervention of professional neutrals. By using alternate dispute resolution, the process saved his clients time, money, and much aggravation.

Jim decided to make the transition from legal advocate to mediator in 2014 and began his mediation training at Pepperdine Law School. He became a full-time neutral in 2017 and since then has mediated cases throughout Southern California, both in person and using virtual platforms. Conducting scores of mediations only reinforced Jim's belief that there is no "one size fits all" approach to resolving disputes. In every case, the parties are unique, their legal claims are nuanced, and their interests underlying their legal claims are deeply personal. Jim diligently studies and evaluates all of these critical factors in order to help parties build a customized pathway to resolution.

Those who know Jim are well aware that his passion is aviation. Combining business and pleasure with his own aircraft, a Cessna TurboCenturion, Jim has flown well in excess of 3,000 hours over the continental U.S., Canada, and Mexico. As an attorney, he handled scores of aviation cases, and brings with him the subject matter expertise needed as a mediator of aviation matters. Jim is one of the few mediators in the country whose mediation practice focuses solely on aviation matters, and West Coast Resolution Group is proud to count him as one of its neutrals.

RATES:

- Hourly: $650 per hour
- Half day: $3,250
- Full day: $6,500
- $450 non-refundable administrative fee per party

Super Court Ordered Civil Mediations:

- Civil Limited: $150 per hour for each of the first two hours and $650 per hour thereafter.
- Civil Unlimited: $250 per hour for each of the first two hours and $650 per hour thereafter.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE:

- Aviation law cases, including:
    - Aircrash litigation
    - Airport lease issues
    - Access restriction issues
    - Aircraft acquisition and sales
    - Aircraft financing and leasing transactions
    - Fractional ownership structures
    - Product liability
    - Design defects
    - Hull damage claims
    - Aircraft leasing disputes

LEGAL CAREER & PRIOR EXPERIENCE:

- Trial attorney, 1977-2017
- Mediator, Pokorny Mediations, San Diego 2017-2019
- Mediator, ADR Services, Inc., 2019-2022
- Mediator, West Coast Resolution Group, 2023-present

EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS:

Bar Admissions

- California, 1977

Education

- University of California, San Diego, B.A.1970
- University of California, Hastings College of the Law, J.D.1975
- Pepperdine University, Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution, 2014

Professional Affiliations:

California State Bar

- California Young Lawyers' Association, Former Vice President
- California State Bar Board of Governors, Former Member
- Law Practice Management Section, Past Chair, Executive Committee

Bar Association Affiliations

- Lawyer-Pilots Bar Association, Past President
- San Diego County Bar Association, Aviation Law Section, Co-Founder and Past Chair
- San Diego County Bar Association, ongoing member from 1977 to present

Court Designations

- San Diego Municipal Court, Past Judge Pro Tempore
- San Diego Superior Court, Civil Mediation Panelist, 2017-present

Other Professional Affiliations

- Legal Commentator, KUSI Television, 1995-2000
- Airplane Owners and Pilots Association, former legal services panelist
- FAA Licensed Commercial Pilot with over 3,000 hours of flight time

ACHIEVEMENTS & AWARDS:

- Member, United States Registry of Who's Who Among Outstanding Americans, 1994
- Finalist, San Diego County "Top Attorneys," The Daily Transcript, 2009
- Super Lawyers, San Diego Magazine (2010 to present)

TESTIMONIALS:

"I had the pleasure of working with Jim Pokorny as the mediator in an aviation tort negligence case, and his professionalism and diligence were exceptional. His background as a pilot allowed him to quickly understand the technical nuances of the dispute, engage meaningfully with both sides, and create a productive environment for resolution. Jim combines expert mediation skills with thoughtful, insightful guidance, making him highly effective in complex cases. For anyone in the aviation community pilots, aircraft owners, insurers, or flight schools he brings a rare blend of mediation expertise and industry knowledge, and I highly recommend him."
– *Capt. Bob Walker Esq., Aviator Law, San Diego, CA*

"Mr. Pokorny was extremely professional and well versed in the subject matter. He was a fair and impartial neutral who treated all parties with courtesy and respect. It was obvious that he took the time to review the voluminous pre-mediation briefs. He was intimately familiar with the case, showing that he spent a substantial period of time doing research, something my client and I greatly appreciated. I would not hesitate to use him again nor would I hesitate to recommend his services to other counsel."

- *Steven L. Graff, Steven L. Graff, Inc., Temecula, CA.*

"Mr. Pokorny did a wonderful job. Although it was a difficult case, Mr. Pokorny is a magnificent mediator. He had an excellent grasp of the facts and knew the relevant law. Due to his excellent skills, all parties involved understood the situation. We were very pleased with Mr. Pokorny and will use his services again for any future mediations in California."

- *William Harger, William G. Harger & Associates, PLLC, Richmond, TX.*

"Working with Mr. Pokorny was an absolute pleasure. I appreciated his effectiveness and determination in resolving our case. Jim's exceptional patience was a valuable skill during our mediation. His abilities to listen attentively, communicate effectively, and maintain a calm professionalism are what make him such a strong mediator. I am grateful for his expertise."

- *Genevieve M. Sauter, Esq., Noonan Lance Boyer & Banach, LLP, San Diego, CA.*

"Jim Pokorny recently successfully mediated a case which all parties believed was unresolvable. He was well-prepared and was thoroughly familiar with the facts and issues of the case and each party's respective positions. He treated everyone with the utmost respect. His penetrating questions and analyses, coupled with his perspective and sense of humor made the impossible happen. I would not hesitate to utilize him again and unqualifiedly recommend his services to others."

- *Michael L. Dworkin, Managing Partner, Avialex Law Group, LLP, San Mateo, CA*

PUBLISHED WORKS

- "The Real Truth About Air Crash Litigation", Dicta Magazine, San Diego County Bar Association, June & July, 1993
- "California Practice Guide: Law Practice Management", Consulting Editor, The Rutter Group, November, 1992
- "The Law and Mr. Finnegan", Consulting Editor, State Bar of California, September, 1991

Jim flying above Baja California in his own aircraft, a Cessna TurboCenturion





To schedule a mediation, please contact Veronica Montenegro at 619-238-2400 x259 or vmontenegro@westcoastresolution.com or email James at jpokorny@westcoastresolution.com.