

MICHAEL P. RING, MEDIATOR



Michael Ring is a Santa Barbara based mediator, who handles cases throughout California. Having been in the trenches for over 43 years, Michael brings the knowledge and experience that will help guide a resolution to hotly contested disputes. Michael was certified by Pepperdine University, Caruso School of Law, Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution, as a trained mediator, and advanced mediation training sessions offered by the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California.

Michael feels that his job as a Mediator is to help people in disputes get from “no” to “yes”. The way Michael does that is to build trust between him and the parties, in order to help break through the impasse to resolution. Michael reminds the parties that they control the outcome at mediation. Not so at trial.

Michael’s focus is on trying to get the parties to come to the same, necessary terms at the same time by looking past who is right and who is wrong, but who will join in the field of compromise to end the struggle? To do that Michael looks to see where the zone of possible agreement lies in the relationship of the participants.

As the Mediator, Michael will determine which of many approaches will be best to get the result the parties need. Whether it be collaborative or integrative thinking, Michael will provide the context that best suits the parties’ needs. Michael will encourage creativity and imagination. Michael will assure each participant that they can safely discuss all issues that need to be addressed, without any judgment being cast on their positions or feelings. Michael will assure all sides to the dispute that he is at the mediation as your servant, attempting to get things done.

Michael believes that all participants in mediation, parties and their attorneys, deserve respect, and to be treated fairly. Michael also believes that each participant must endeavor to respect not only the process, but the other sides’ entitlement to hold its position, and air its grievances when needed.

While Michael will endeavor to have the parties come up with solutions, if progress has been made, but an impasse has been reached, Michael will suggest that the parties allow him to present a mediator’s proposal to resolve the dispute. This proposal will be made in confidence, and neither side will know that the other has accepted the proposal unless all sides have done so.

Michael draws on his experience of having been a civil litigation attorney practicing in Santa Barbara since 1980, after he received his J.D. from California Western Law School, magna cum laude. He started as an employee attorney with the firm of Goux, Romasanta, and Cappello, dealing with multistate franchise litigations, SEC enforcement actions, bad faith banking, and other highly complex cases.

While at that firm, Michael became one of the very first attorneys to use Westlaw in Santa Barbara County. Since then, he has made efforts to stay near the cutting edge of technology tools in the law, including being one of the first to have a laptop connected to the Westlaw database while sitting at counsel table during trial.

Michael formed his own firm in 1982, and has been doing almost exclusively civil litigation at all levels since then.

Over the years, he invented a simple, but effective tool for aiding in the selection of jurors at trial, which is used by numerous judges, district attorneys, public defenders, and other trial lawyers around the country.

Michael has been a Professor of Law at Southern California Institute of Law, a member of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America, the American Bar Association.

Michael has published opinions in California state appellate matters, as well as before the Bankruptcy Appellate Panel and Ninth Circuit Court of Appeal. He has made appearances in courts around the country, including trial in the State of Massachusetts, arbitrations and other matters before, inter alia, the NASD, FINRA, the New York Stock Exchange, the Pacific Stock Exchange, the Alcoholic Beverages Control Board, the California Contractor's State Licensing Board, and the California Labor Commissioner.

Michael is a former president of the Paradise Dive Club of Santa Barbara, and is an avid scuba diver.