

“Not one of the parties . . . had any desire to introduce the expense of a mediator into what had already become extremely expensive and burdensome legal proceedings.”

What Our Mediation Clients Are Saying . . .

Securities / Breach of Contract

“Having been a party to a very hotly-contested Federal Court lawsuit in the Northern District of California, I can speak with some authority as to the mediation skills of Jack Skelton of the Litigation Solutions Law Group.

“In our very difficult situation, hostile, antagonistic defendants, plaintiffs and attorneys were scattered across six states. Not one of the parties, to my knowledge, had any desire to introduce the expense of a mediator into what had already become extremely expensive and burdensome legal proceedings.

“At the Courts insistence, however, Jack Skelton waded into the mess to assist us in settling the suit before it reached the courtroom for what had been predicted to be a very long and difficult trial. Over the course of three very contentious months, Jack kept tough negotiations moving forward in the direction of a settlement.

“He juggled egos, difficult personalities and troublesome interpersonal conflicts, and pushed us to always look past the immediate aggravation toward ‘the prize’ — a settlement acceptable to all parties.

“Jack was tough and serious, yet always pleasant to work with. Without a doubt, this lawsuit would never have reached a settlement without the involvement of Jack Skelton. Contrary to our initial beliefs — that his services would be an unnecessary additional cost — I can truly state that Jack Skelton actually saved the defendants and the plaintiffs a great deal of money, time and aggravation through his skillful negotiation of a settlement of this lawsuit before it reached the trial stage.”

“Dispute Resolution With A Difference”

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On the Web at
www.LSLG.com

Robert R. Turnage
Vice President
Reef Energy Corporation
Salem, Illinois

It's All About Qualifications . . .

- Master of Laws (LL.M.) in Dispute Resolution, With a Concentration in Mediation, Pepperdine University School of Law
- Fellow, Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution
- Graduate, Harvard Law Mediation Program
- Graduate, Harvard Law Advanced Negotiation Program
- Advanced Mediation and Advocacy Skills Training, ABA National Institute
- U.S. District Court Mediation Panel Member
- Reputation for Fairness Among Both Plaintiff and Defense Lawyers

. . . And Experience

- 30 Years Extensive Litigation and Mediation Practice, with an Emphasis on Complex Business, Technology, Employment, Environmental, Personal Injury and Insurance Matters

John Skelton

What Our Mediation Clients Are Saying. . .

“I really don’t want to contemplate the outcome if you had not orchestrated this settlement. . . .”

Wrongful Death (Murder-Suicide) / Probate / ERISA

“I can’t thank you enough for all of your efforts in connection with the resolution of this case and the related matters. I am now a firm believer in the mediation process.

“Your efforts are the reason my client is now in the position to have closure, not only with the California matter, but for all the

other related matters you were willing to negotiate between the parties. I really don’t want to contemplate the outcome if you had not orchestrated this settlement. . . .”

Susan K. Stoneman
Attorney-at-Law
Richmond, Virginia

Discrimination / Profiling

“. . . . Again, I wish to thank you for the extraordinary amount of work you devoted to the process of bringing both sides to common ground. I am certainly pleased, as I am sure [opposing counsel] is, that your

efforts were not at all in vain.”

Richard G. Grotch
Coddington, Hicks & Danforth
Redwood City, California

“The purpose of this letter is to emphasize to the Court what an excellent choice of mediators was made. . . .”

Nine Separate Claims / In Six Courts / In Five States

Dear Judge:

“. . . By selecting a very superior mediator, the Court was saved eons of time. The purpose of this letter is to emphasize to the Court what an excellent choice of mediators was made. . . .

“This letter will not be long enough to express the extreme amount of time and

energy, not to mention consummate skill, that Mr. Skelton brought to bear in the circumstances. The result is a settlement agreed to by all sides, and a complete, global resolution which leaves no loose ends. . . .”

Jane Z. Hinsdale
The Hinsdale Law Firm
Burlingame, California

Airline Passenger Denied Boarding After September 11th

“This is to thank you for your mediation efforts in connection with the matter involving our client who was not allowed to board an airline flight because of what he perceived to be was racial and religious discrimination. . . .

“The mediation process required several sessions and you very patiently considered his concerns and handled the matter most sensitively. The result was that you built a trust with the client and were able to achieve

a resolution that satisfied our client’s goals of preventing future discrimination against passengers such as he.

“Thank you again for all your hard work and we look forward to working with you on other matters.”

Javed Ellahie
Attorney-at-Law
San Jose, California

Success In Your Mediation Depends Upon Your Mediator

Why Mediation ?

Mediation is not a cure-all, but it does offer *the most effective means* of resolving a wide range of disputes. It allows the parties to

decide how their dispute will be resolved, rather than allowing a judge or jury to *impose* a decision on them. Mediation also allows

alternatives that are not possible with a verdict, eliminates uncertainty, and controls the risk inherent in every dispute.

Mediation+Plus refers to our active approach to the mediation process, designed to engage the parties in a systematic analysis to “peel back” the dispute to its essential core; focus the parties on what’s important to them; and help them clearly identify the obstacles to resolution, and possible solutions, as clearly as possible, as soon as possible.

This exercise in clarity may not always be easy, but it *is* the most effective way for the parties to avoid unnecessary expenditures of time, money and emotion. It is the *key* to the **Mediation+Plus** approach, and for lawyers and their clients interested in resolution it is *the* most productive form of alternative dispute resolution.

When To Mediate

There is a simple answer to the question of when to mediate: *when the parties feel they have sufficient information* to meaningfully define their essential interests; what areas of agreement they may share; what issues separate them; and those areas

of so-called “common ground” that might provide the basis for resolution.

While each case is obviously different, often (but not always) this may mean after some discovery has been conducted by the parties.

This does not mean that every discovery “stone” must be turned over, though, before mediation can be productive. Early mediation can frequently be quite valuable in advancing a case toward resolution.

It’s never too early or too late . . .

John Skelton

Litigation Solutions Law Group / Mediation + Plus

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“His skill and dedication was the catalyst which kept the parties and their attorneys at the mediation table despite the numerous and complex issues.”

What Our Mediation Clients Are Saying . . .

Dear Judge:

“I am writing to commend the work of John Skelton, the mediator assigned by the court in the above-referenced matter. As Virginia counsel for one of the parties in the California litigation, I became involved in the negotiations as a result of Jack's comprehensive approach to the mediation.

“Jack's vision for resolution and his position that settlement through mediation was necessary trans-

formed the parties from adversaries to negotiators. His skill and dedication was the catalyst which kept the parties and their attorneys at the mediation table despite the numerous and complex issues.

“The California court system is fortunate to have a professional of his high caliber assisting in the resolution of matters through mediation.”

Susan K. Stoneman
Attorney-at-Law
Richmond, Virginia