



Catherine A. Yanni, Esq.

Cathy Yanni is a full time specialist in ADR. Since joining JAMS in 1998, Ms. Yanni's practice includes mediation, Special Master/Discovery Referee, arbitration, and class action settlement administration. Ms. Yanni's substantive knowledge, her focused attention to detail, and her persistent follow up are the keys to her high settlement rate.

ADR Experience and Qualifications

Ms. Yanni has successfully mediated, arbitrated, and acted as Special Master/Discovery Referee in over 1,000 of the following matters:

Americans with Disabilities Act/Civil Rights:

- Class action claims involving major universities, public entities and corporations, individual suits involving discrimination and access issues

Business/Commercial:

- Numerous contract, business, and accounting disputes

Class Actions/Mass Torts:

- Pharmaceutical cases: Gandolinium, Zicam, ReNu, Denture cream, Bextra-Celebrex, Ortho Evra, Zyprexa I and II, Silicone Gel Breast Implants, Baycol, PPA, Fen-Phen
- Employment, wage and hour claims
- Bank leasing agreements
- Workers compensation insurance
- Securities cases involving financial institutions
- Federal and state taxation
- Consumer and product liability involving hardware and software claims

Construction, Real Estate/Landslides:

- Claims involving all types of real property, construction, earth movement, and mold issues

Elder Abuse:

- All types of physical and financial elder abuse cases including actions against skilled nursing facilities, residential care facilities, assisted living facilities, and hospitals, plus claims of fraud, mishandling finances, and unfair business practices

Employment:

- Hundreds of claims including race, gender, and age discrimination, sexual harassment, wrongful discharge
- ERISA
- Other employment related contract disputes

Environmental:

- CERCLA, toxic torts, underground tanks, and other industrial clean-ups

Insurance:

- First, third party, and excess coverage disputes involving multiple carriers

Intellectual Property:

- Trade secret, copyright, and patent disputes involving biotech, computer software and hardware
- Variety of other high tech disputes

Landlord/Tenant:

- Numerous residential and commercial disputes, including rent control issues

San Diego Fire Cases:

- Ongoing mediations of over 1,500 individual claims including numerous business, property damage, and personal injury claims arising from the October 2007 San Diego fires

Special Master/Discovery Referee:

- Significant experience with electronic discovery
- Intellectual property matters, patent disputes
- Employment matters (including discrimination, sexual harassment, and wrongful termination)
- Construction defect
- Environmental and landslide
- Complex multiparty cases for Federal District and State Courts

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*Recognized as a Top 50
California Neutral, Daily
Journal, 2003, 2004, and
2010*

*Recognized as a Top 40
California Neutral, Daily
Journal, 2007 and 2008*

*Recognized as a Top 30
California Neutral, Daily
Journal, 2006*

Case Manager

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- Post settlement adjudication and administration: designed and implemented distribution of over \$1 Billion of claims, including adjudicating disputes that arise after distribution of the funds

Torts:

- All types of catastrophic personal injury, elder abuse, molestation, wrongful death, toxic torts, mold, and product liability matters

Representative Matters

- *Gadolinium Medical cases*: Appointed mediator by The Hon. Richard Karmer, SF Superior Court, in MDL proceedings involving mediation and allocation of over 40 cases totaling over \$45 million for the pharmaceutical manufacturers, including Bayer, General Electric and Mallinckrodt.
- *San Diego fire cases*: Mediated cases for Witch and Rice fires in San Diego County involving business, personal property, personal injury and real property claims. Claimants include growers, ranchers, business owners and individuals and claims are in excess of \$900 million.
- Mediator in Polo Ralph Lauren California wage and hour and overtime pay class action lawsuit involving 6,700 member class which settled for \$4 million dollars. Case involved protracted negotiations and settled two weeks into trial.
- *Silicone Gel Breast Implant Litigation*: Appointed Federal Mediator by The Hon. Denise Hood, U.S. District Court Eastern District Michigan, to resolve cases arising out of the Dow Corning Settlement Fund
- *Zyprexa* – Appointed Federal Special Master by The Hon. Jack Weinstein, Eastern District of New York, to design and implement claims administration process and distribution of \$700 million dollar settlement
- *Baycol* – Appointed Federal Mediator by The Hon. Michael J. Davis, District of Minnesota, settled MDL and state court cases involving multiple catastrophic personal injury and wrongful death cases arising out of complications from Rhabdomyolysis
- *PPA* - Appointed Mediator by the Hon. Anthony Mohr, Superior Court of California, Los Angeles County, for all remaining PPA cases (Phenylpropanolamine, an additive in over the counter diet and cold medications), settled Multi-District Federal litigation and state court cases, settled wrongful death and stroke cases
- *In re Fen-Phen Diet Drug Litigation*, facilitated settlement of over 1,000 Fen-Phen related cases
- Class action involving the citizens of Guam and distribution of earned income tax credits of \$90 million
- Settled large construction defect class action in Nevada (\$20.5 million)
- Settled intellectual property dispute between founder and biotech start-up involving patent portfolio and alleged wrongful termination
- Settled employment dispute between the EEOC and a Fortune 500 company involving damages and a consent decree
- Settled a multi-party insurance coverage dispute for \$4.5 million between a large governmental entity and its insurers

Honors, Memberships, and Professional Activities

- Sedona Conference: E-Discovery Dispute Resolution Program for Special Masters & Mediators, January 2010
- Co-Presenter, ABOTA Civility Training, 2010
- Woman of Achievement Award, Legal Momentum, 2008
- Recognized as a Top 40 California Neutral, Daily Journal, 2007 and 2008
- Recognized as a Top 30 California Neutral, Daily Journal, 2006
- Recognized as a Top 50 California Neutral, Daily Journal, 2003, 2004, and 2010
- Board of Directors, Academy of Court-Appointed Masters
- Member, CA State Bar; Mediator and Early Neutral Evaluator for the Federal Courts; CA Court of Appeal; CA and NV State Courts
- Conducts CLE seminars on ADR: Mediation, Negotiation, Ethics, Bias, Employment, Insurance, Special Masters and Referees, Intellectual Property, and e-Discovery

Background and Education

- Panelist, JAMS, San Francisco, 1998-present
- Discovery Referee, San Mateo County Superior Court, 1994-1998
- Litigation Partner, major San Francisco law firm, 1982-1998
- Mediation Workshop, Harvard Law School Program of Instruction for Lawyers, 1995
- J.D., Golden Gate University School of Law, 1981; Editor, *Law Review*
- B.A., Mount Holyoke College, 1975; Dartmouth College, 1974-1975; Honors Commendation