



Catherine A. Yanni, Esq.

Special Master/Disc. Referee Dispute Resolution Experience

Ms. Yanni serves as a Special Master/Discovery Referee by court appointment and agreement of the parties in both federal and state courts. In her role as a Special Master, she has structured the case management process, supervised discovery, as well as adjudicated motions regarding privilege and other substantive legal issues. As Special Master in large class actions, Ms. Yanni has participated in preparing the settlement documents including class notices. She has designed, managed, and adjudicated post settlement proceedings in mass tort and class actions. As a Special Master/Discovery Referee, Ms. Yanni has extensive electronic discovery experience supervising production of all types of electronic data.

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

Special Master/Discovery Referee, Representative Matters

- **Special Master - Pharmaceutical:** appointed to design claims process and distribute \$700 million dollar settlement
- Discovery Referee - Business/Commercial: high-tech dispute between manufacturer and supplier; issues involved trade secrets, patents, breach of contract, and delay claims
- Discovery Referee - Business/Commercial: mid-sized family owned business; issues involved stock valuation, accounting, and attorney/client privilege
- Discovery Referee - Business/Commercial: tow truck and body shop partnership; family business issues involved dissolution, valuation, highly charged emotional atmosphere
- Discovery Referee - Construction/Personal Injury: multi-party wrongful death case with two surviving brain damaged plaintiffs; refereed depositions and assisted with case management process
- Discovery Referee - Employment: individual claimant against large entertainment company; issues involved stock valuation and privilege; individual wrongful termination/sexual harassment claim against Fortune 500 Telecommunication Company
- Discovery Referee - Intellectual Property: high-tech dispute between inventor and corporation; issues involved trade secrets, source code, attorney/client privilege, production of emails and other electronic data
- Discovery Referee - Personal Injury: maritime law wrongful death case; issues involved choice of law, attorney/client privilege
- Special Master - Business/Commercial: class action against large commercial bank's trust department; managed distribution of settlement proceeds in excess of \$40 million and adjudicated individual claims
- Special Master - Construction Defect: large multi-party condominium defect case; issues involved critical path and insurance coverage
- Special Master - Construction/Landslide: large multi-party neighborhood dispute; highly emotional issues involving continuing relationships, insurance coverage, nature and extent of repair and cost of repair
- Special Master - Environmental: class action against major utility company involving multiple governmental entities; conducted settlement negotiations with individual class members
- Special Master - Intellectual Property: multi-party biotech dispute involving intellectual property, patent infringement, trade secrets, and anti-trust violations; issues concerning allegations of breach of attorney/client privilege; extensive electronic discovery issues

Honors, Memberships, and Professional Activities

- Recognized as a **Top 50 California Neutral**, Daily Journal Extra, 2003 and 2004
- Member, Academy of Court-Appointed Masters (www.courtappointedmasters.org), 2005
- 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, and Intellectual Property

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, 1974-75; Honors Commendation

References Available Upon Request