



Hon. V. Gene McDonald (Ret.)

Special Master/Disc. Referee Dispute Resolution Experience

Judge McDonald has presided over thousands of civil cases in virtually every area of law presented to the Superior Court during his nearly thirty years as a trial judge and ADR provider. In his various capacities as an ADR provider, Judge McDonald has experience with disputes in the areas of real property, business-commercial, probate/trusts, insurance coverage, professional negligence, employment, and personal injury.

Judge McDonald joined JAMS in 1997 and since has served as a judge pro tem, Special Master, or CCP §§ 638 and 639 Referee in the areas reflected by the representative cases described below.

Representative Matters

- **Commissioned and supervised** an audit of a trust accounting, appraisal of commercial real property, and liquidation of trust assets
- **Discovery Referee** in a classic multi-party construction defect litigation involving a large commercial building
- **Discovery Referee** in an aggressively litigated large consumer class action against a national lending institution
- **Judge Pro Tem** in an action in which trustee of family trust was charged with misusing trust assets for personal benefit and failing to properly account
- **Multi-year effort to value and oversee** the purchase/sale of a multi-million dollar family-owned corporation and partnership owning assets all over the United States
- **Settlement Master** in a complex business case involving approximately 15 major law firms with issues varying from liability of directors and officers to bankruptcy, to insurance coverage
- **Settlement Referee** in multi-million dollar landslide case involving fifteen homeowners, three governmental entities, an engineering firm, several contractors, and insurance carriers for all parties
- **Special Master** charged with selling three problematic parcels of commercial real property in which the co-owners were in litigation; involved with obtaining Phase I and Phase II toxic studies, commissioning the extraction of two underground tanks, dealing with seismic retrofit issues with a governmental entity, and a variety of other issues

Honors, Memberships, and Professional Activities

- Judge of the Year, Consumer Attorneys of San Mateo County, 1996
- President's Award, California Judges Association, 1985
- Judicial Chair of the Bench-Bar committees which supervised the planning and early implementation of the San Mateo County Superior Court's Multi-Option ADR Program
- Member, California Judges Association, American Judicature Society, American Bar Association (Dispute Resolution Section) and California Dispute Resolution Council (Board of Directors, 2000-2003)
- President, California Judges Association, 1987-1988
- Member, Board of Directors, California Judges Association, 1985-1987
- Lecturer, panel member or seminar leader for the Center for Judicial Education & Research, Hastings School of Advocacy, CEB, CTLA, the California Judges Association, The Rutter Group and various local or specialty bar associations

Background and Education

- Associate Justice (pro tem), First District Court of Appeal, 1984
- Judge, San Mateo County Superior Court, 1979-1997
- Judge, San Mateo County Municipal Court, 1976-1979
- L.L.B., University of California, Los Angeles, 1965
- B.S., University of California, Los Angeles, 1960

References Available Upon Request