

Celebrating Leadership and Excellence at the LACBA Installation & Awards Dinner



Anthony Khoury, Marjorie Luna, Janie Honeycutt, Hon. Alan Honeycutt, Nicole Bethurum, Hon. Andrew Kauffman, Ret.

ARC was honored to attend the Los Angeles County Bar Association's (LACBA) annual Installation & Awards Dinner, an evening dedicated to welcoming the organization's incoming leadership and recognizing outstanding members of the legal community for their service and contributions to the field.

The event provided a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of legal professionals. We extend our congratulations to all of this year's honorees, with special recognition to the **Hon. Alan Honeycutt** on his well-deserved Outstanding Jurist Award. It was a pleasure celebrating this achievement alongside him and fellow members of our Los Angeles legal community.

New Neutral

Paul J. Molinaro, M.D., Esq. Mediator & Arbitrator

When complex medical issues drive the value and outcome of a case, attorneys need a neutral who understands both the medicine and the law. Paul J. Molinaro, M.D., J.D., is an active physician with more than three decades of clinical experience and a full-time mediator, arbitrator, and attorney with more than two decades of litigation experience. With an ongoing medical practice and a career spent handling complex civil matters, he is uniquely positioned to evaluate medical malpractice, catastrophic injury, wrongful death, products liability, pharmaceutical claims, elder abuse, and other medically intensive disputes. Whether the key issue is standard of care, causation, or the long-term impact of a traumatic injury, Dr. Molinaro analyzes cases with clinical precision, practical insight, and the ability to clearly explain complex issues to all parties involved.



Having litigated for both plaintiffs and defendants, Dr. Molinaro brings a balanced perspective to every dispute, helping parties navigate complex negotiations with efficiency and credibility. He serves on mediation panels for the Los Angeles, Riverside, and Ventura County Superior Courts and is a panel arbitrator for Kaiser Foundation Health Plan. His experience as a utilization review physician and workers' compensation physician advisor provides valuable insight into how medical evidence is evaluated by insurers.

Dr. Molinaro earned his M.D. from New Jersey Medical School and his J.D. from Chapman University Fowler School of Law, and recently completed Pepperdine University's Certificate in Dispute Resolution through the Straus Institute. He also serves on the Board of the Southern California Association of Healthcare Risk Management (SCAHRM). Attorneys value his thoughtful preparation, balanced approach, and ability to resolve disputes where medical complexity and legal strategy intersect.

Specialties: Medical malpractice, personal injury, traumatic brain injury, wrongful death, elder abuse, products liability, pharmaceutical and medical device liability, premises liability, real estate, lender liability, construction defect, and general civil litigation.

MCLE Presentation: Employment Law Update

Top ARC Neutrals Stephen M. Benardo, Esq. and Anthony S. Khoury, Esq., LL.M. will provide an update on recent case law and new statutes relevant to employment law cases. The discussion will explore how these developments may impact employment disputes in the context of both mediation and arbitration.



Stephen M. Benardo, Esq.
Mediator & Arbitrator

MCLE Credits provided
• 1.25 General

Date: August 6th, 2026
Time: 12:15 – 1:30 PM
Format: Zoom



Anthony S. Khoury, Esq., LL.M.
Former Kern County Superior
Court Commissioner

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Message from a Mediator...

A Recipe for Resolution

For those who follow me on Instagram, my alter ego is @Leftyliciousesq, an account focusing on my culinary passion — a generational love sparked by my Great Grandmother, who cooked on instinct and muscle memory, her imprecise methods yielding delectable results. My recent epiphany is how deeply my approach to cooking aligns with my philosophy of mediation.



Lori M. Dobrin,
Esq./Mediator

The key to mastering a finished dish is preparation: meticulously reading through the recipe, familiarizing yourself with ingredients, required steps, and necessary tools, and planning a realistic block of time. Starting croissants at 8:00 AM on a Sunday won't yield a flaky, buttery slice of Paris by brunch.

Similarly, in mediation, preparation is the most important ingredient. It is the advance convening — acquainting yourself with the parties and lawyers, reading their briefs, and strategizing how to meld differing flavors over the same set of facts. It means serving each side a taste of the other's perspective in small teaspoonfuls, tempering the delivery of conflicting information so these sometimes bitter bites aren't spit out in rejection.

Culinary confidence demands multisensory attention — listening for the sizzle that signals it's time to sauté, observing when whipped cream reaches its peak, and exercising patience while onions caramelize into sweetness. So too with mediation: listening deeply for cues that allow you to peel back the layers and reach the root of why a participant is entrenched in their position. Often it's not what's said aloud, but the subtle lift of an eyebrow, a telling facial expression, or a palpable exhale signaling an emotional shift. This takes time — parties must trust the mediator before revealing their vulnerabilities, much like waiting for bread dough to rise. You cannot rush the process.

Even a foolproof recipe throws curve balls. My approach is my own version of AI — adjust and improvise — trusting my palate and knowing the finished product will still be delicious. Likewise, every mediation is unique. The mediator must recognize the level of heat in the room and recalibrate accordingly — reducing a boil to a simmer, or infusing optimism into a heavy recipe.

The objective is to elevate the parties toward transformation. You know it's happened the way you know a roast is perfectly done — through preparation, patience, experience, and confidence. Ultimately, it's just a feel. That is the essence of being a mediator: ensuring every participant leaves the table more satisfied than when they arrived.

MCLE Presentation: **Artificial Intelligence (“AI”) and the Standard of Medical Care**



Paul J. Molinaro,
M.D., Esq.
Mediator &
Arbitrator

As artificial intelligence becomes integrated into clinical diagnosis and treatment, the legal definition of the standard of care in medical malpractice cases is fundamentally shifting. This presentation examines how AI tools are changing physician obligations, how attorneys should evaluate AI-related standard of care arguments, and how mediators can help parties navigate these emerging and contested issues toward resolution.

MCLE Credits provided
• 0.5 General
• 0.5 Technology

Date: July 30th, 2026
Time: 12:15 – 1:15 PM
Format: Zoom

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ARC Perspective

A note from the CEO

Nicole Bethurum



The Rise of Early-Stage Mediation

Over the past several months, we've seen a steady increase in mediations taking place earlier in the litigation process—often before formal discovery is well underway.

This trend reflects a broader shift in priorities. Clients are more focused than ever on controlling litigation costs and minimizing disruption, while counsel are looking for opportunities to resolve disputes before positions become entrenched.

Early-stage mediation presents a different set of challenges. With less information available, the process relies more heavily on preparation, clarity of objectives, and the mediator's ability to guide productive dialogue.

At ARC, we approach these matters with a tailored framework—often incorporating pre-mediation discussions and focused issue identification to ensure that time is used efficiently and constructively.

When handled thoughtfully, early mediation can be highly effective—even in cases involving significant exposure. It allows parties to explore resolution from a position of flexibility, rather than after substantial investment has already been made.

We continue to see strong results in this space and welcome the opportunity to discuss whether early mediation may be appropriate for your case.