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Sidney Kanazawa, Esq.

Mediator/Arbitrator

Sid Kanazawa is a full-time mediator/arbitrator who thought he understood mediations. During his 40 years of trial practice, he believed the myths - "if everyone is unhappy, it must be a good settlement," "in-person is the only way to effectively mediate," and "mediations should be scheduled just before trial."

After the pandemic forced him to mediate more than 100 cases online, he no longer believes the myths. Using a status conference approach he developed during the pandemic, he now mediates early (sometimes before a lawsuit is filed), often, online, in-person, and world-wide to secure the just, speedy, and inexpensive determination of nearly every action. And now everyone generally leaves happy.

With curiosity and a trial lawyer's perspective, Sid turns enemies into collaborators in search of a mutually acceptable path forward.

Practice Areas

Matters involving commercial conflicts, business reorganizations, intellectual property, real estate, construction defects, securities, transportation, maritime, product liability, employment, sexual assault, personal injury, civil rights, ADA, malpractice, healthcare, and other conflicts.

Organizations & Achievements

- Staff/Articles Editor, Law Review, USC Law School, Los Angeles, CA (1976-78)
- Member/Chair, Committee on the Administration of Justice, State Bar, CA (1985-89)
- Member, Advisory Committee on Restatement 3d, Product Liability (1996-98)
- American Law Institute (ALI), USA (1996 – Present)
- Executive Committee, Litigation Section, State Bar, CA (1999-2001)
- "So. California Super Lawyers," Class Actions, Thompson Reuters (2004-2019)
- General Counsel (2007-2017), President's Award (2014), President-Elect (2020), National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA), USA (2005-Present)
- "Most Influential Minority Attorney", Los Angeles Business Journal (2018)
- Leadership Award, USC Asian Pacific Alumni Association (2021)
- Board Member, Academy of Court Appointed Neutrals (ACAN), USA (2022 – Present)
- Lee Friedman Leadership Impact Award, ARC (2024)

- ADR Advisory Board Member, Los Angeles Superior Court, Los Angeles, CA (2025 – Present)
- Fellow, Senior Fellow, Diversity Award (2019), and President (2026) Litigation Counsel of America, USA (2012 – Present)
- Mediator, Hawaii Appellate Mediation Program (APM), Center for Alternative Dispute Resolution, Hawaii State Judiciary, Honolulu, HI (2025 – Present)
- Adjunct Professor, Pepperdine Caruso School of Law (2025 – Present)

Education & Training

- J.D., University of Southern California Gould School of Law, 1978
- B.A., University of Hawaii, Education, 1974
- Harvard Program on Negotiation
- Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution (Pepperdine Law School)
- Southern California Family Mediation Program (Edelman Children's Court)
- Asian Pacific American Dispute Resolution Center
- Los Angeles County Bar Association
- FINRA
- Los Angeles County Department of Consumer and Business Affairs Mediation Program (Stanley Mosk Superior Court)
- Dan Simon Transformative Mediation Program
- U.S. District Court, Central District of California Mediation Panel

Mr. Kanazawa is available nationwide.