

# JEFFRY S. ABRAMS

ATTORNEY/MEDIATOR

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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Law Office of Jeffrey S. Abrams Houston, Texas

June 1984 to present: Business litigation, bankruptcy, real estate, landlord/tenant, contracts, personal injury, arbitration, mediation (full-time since 1993)

Pendergraft, Elam & Simon, Houston, Texas

January 1983 to May 1984: Business litigation and bankruptcy

## ADR TRAINING

Mediation Inc., Houston, Texas

Litigation Mediation Training, October 1988

Attorney-Mediators Institute, Inc., Dallas, Texas Mediation

Training, April 1991

American Arbitration Association, Houston, Texas

Arbitrator Training, June 1993

Dispute Resolution Center, Houston, Texas

24-Hour Family Mediation Training, February 1991

18-Hour Juvenile Mediation Program Training, July 1990

40-Hour Community-Based Mediation Training, August 1989

Center Effective Dispute Resolution ("CEDR"), London, England

Mediation Training, June 2002

Miscellaneous Mediation Training

Hundreds of hours of mediation training over the last 32 years

## ADR EXPERIENCE AND ACTIVITIES

Since 1989 I have conducted well over 6000 mediations of almost every conceivable variety, including, but not limited to commercial, construction, personal injury, employment, international, Maritime Jones Act, Title VII, ERISA, ADA, products liability, insurance coverage, medical and professional malpractice, toxic tort, securities, condemnation, oil and gas, maritime, real estate, governmental, probate, arts and entertainment and almost every other type of case. I have also arbitrated a number of cases as a sole arbitrator, Tribunal member and party appointed arbitrator.

Association of Attorney-Mediators Immediate Past-President (2004/2005); President (2003/2004); President Elect, (2002/2003); Treasurer, (2000/2002); President, Houston Chapter (1999/2000); Vice President, Houston Chapter (1998/1999); Treasurer, Houston Chapter (1997/1998); Member since 1991

Houston Bar Association, Houston, Texas. Immediate Past Chair, Alternative Dispute Resolution Section (1998/1999); Chair, Alternative Dispute Resolution Section (1997/1998) Chair-Elect, Alternative Dispute Resolution Section (1996/1997); Treasurer, Alternative Dispute Resolution Section (1995/1996); Treasurer, Alternative Dispute Resolution Center Committee (1994/1995)

Center for Effective Dispute Resolution (CEDR), London, England Accredited Mediator

Dispute Resolution Center, Houston, Texas - 1992 DRC Volunteer of the Year; Member of Board of Directors (1991-1995); Treasurer (1994/1995); Chair, Continuing Education Committee (1991-1993); court annexed, community-based, juvenile and family mediator. Assisted in numerous trainings since 1991.

## **OTHER ASSOCIATIONS**

Texas Bar Association Sections of Alternative Dispute Resolution and International Law Houston  
Bar Association Sections of Alternative Dispute Resolution and International Law  
U.S./Mexico Bar Association  
Union Internationale des Avocats  
Texas Bar Foundation-Fellow  
Houston Bar Foundation-Fellow  
Cultural Arts Council of Houston/Harris County, Board of Directors (previous)  
Texas Accountants and Lawyers for the Arts, Board of Directors (previous)  
Houston Blues Society, Vice President (previous)  
Houston / Galveston Institute, Board of Directors (previous)

## **EDUCATION**

University of Houston Law Center, Houston, Texas, L.L.M. in International Economic Law 2010  
University of Houston Law Center, Houston, Texas, J.D., 1982  
University of Houston, Mexican Legal Studies Institute, Mexico City, Mexico, 1981  
Associate Editor, Houston Law Review, 1981-1982  
University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, B.S., Business Administration, with High Honors (3rd of 185), 1978  
Florida State University London Institute, London, England, 1978  
Beta Gamma Sigma Business Honor Society, Gainesville, Florida

## **HONORS**

AV Preeminent Rating by Martindale-Hubbell (Highest rating in both legal ability and ethical standards)  
Texas super Lawyer 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009  
Client Distinction Award, Martindale-Hubbell  
America's Most Honored Professionals, Martindale-Hubbell  
Top Rated Lawyer in Texas, Martindale-Hubbell  
American Jurisprudence Award for Academic Excellence — 1979  
Top Lawyers in Texas, The Legal Network, 2013, 2015 - 2018  
Harris County Dispute Resolution Center, Volunteer of the Year - 1992  
Texas Accountants and Lawyers for the Arts - Karen Susman Volunteer of the Year for work in the Arts Mediation Program-2001  
Association of Attorney-Mediators, Steve Brutsché Award (Highest award by the organization) — 2006  
Houstonia's Top Lawyers of 2015 - 2018

## **PRESENTATIONS**

44<sup>th</sup> Congress of the Union Internationale des Avocats, Buenos Aires, Argentina: Compulsory Mediation: The Texas Experience, November 2000.

Collaboration in the Capitol, Washington DC., American Bar Association Section of Dispute Resolution Annual Conference in conjunction with the Section of International Law and Practice: Confidentiality and Privilege in International Commercial Mediation, April 2001

Hong Kong International Arbitration Center: Confidentiality and Privilege in International Commercial Mediation, Compulsory Mediation and Mediator Immunity, June 2001

46<sup>th</sup> Congress of the Union Internationale des Avocats, Sydney, Australia: mock mediation of a complex international mediation, October 2002

Ethics in Mediation, Houston Bar Association, Houston, Texas, August 2003

47<sup>th</sup> Congress of the Union Internationale des Avocats, Lisbon, Portugal: Advocacy in Mediation, Representing Your Client Effectively, September 2003

Queensland Law Society Symposium, Brisbane, Australia: Formulated and conducted mediation role play of international commercial dispute, March 2004

48<sup>th</sup> Congress of the Union Internationale des Avocats, Geneva, Switzerland. Helped formulate and conduct mediation of complex international intellectual property dispute, September 2004

Association of Attorney-Mediators, Austin, Texas: Mediator Ethics Quiz - Interactive Session, November 2004.

Lorman Education Services, Houston, Texas: Mediating the Legal Malpractice Case - How to Keep the Lawyers Out of It! November 2004

State Bar of Texas and South Texas College of Law, Houston, Texas: "Cutting Edge Issues and Tools in ADR," Mediator Ethics Quiz, October 2005

Union Internationale des Avocats, World Forum of Mediation Centres, Barcelona, Spain: Panelist on "A Model Rule on Confidentiality" and "Best Practices", December 2005

Coach, University of Houston Law Center Championship Team, First Annual International Chamber of Commerce Advocacy in International Commercial Mediation Competition, Paris, France, January 2006

University of Houston Law Center, Houston and Dallas, Texas: "Advanced Civil Litigation", Attorney Ethical Considerations in Mediation, May 2006

Union Internationale des Avocats, World Forum of Mediation Centres, Dublin, Ireland: Moderator of International Panel on "Breaking Barriers to Mediation," September 2006

Union Internationale des Avocats, World Forum of Mediation Centres, New York, New York: Moderator of International Panel on "Breaking Barriers to Mediation: The Centres", July 2007

51<sup>st</sup> Congress Union Internationale des Avocats, Paris, France: Participated in role-play on Deal Facilitation November 2007

1<sup>st</sup> Annual Statewide Meeting of Mediators, Oaxaca, Mexico. Presentation in Spanish, Mediation Around the World, 2008

Guest Speaker on 3 Spanish-speaking radio stations in Tlaxiaco, Oaxaca, Mexico. Interview on Mediation in The United States and Mexico, September 2008

53<sup>rd</sup> Congress Union Internationale des Avocats, Seville, Spain: Role-play on international intellectual property dispute, October 2009

World Forum of Mediation Centres, Athens, Greece: How to Create a Market in Mediation, March 2011

World Forum of Mediation Centres, Lisbon, Portugal: Moderator of the Panel: Mandatory Mediation The Caucus Model: "Is it Good or Evil or is it Really Mediation", wrote and mediated caucus model role play, January 2012

Houston Bar Association, Houston, Texas: The Vanishing Opening Session and Moderator of Panel Discussion, June 2012

World Forum of Mediation Centres, Prague, Czech Republic: formulated and moderated panel Moderator "Mining the Minds of Mediators", June 2013

World Forum of Mediation Centres, Houston, Texas: "Mediation Texas Style," "Mining the Minds of Mediators", March 2014

World Forum of Mediation Centres, Thessaloniki, Greece: Panelist "What More Could Governments Do To Increase The Demand For Mediation", September 2014

Houston Bar Association Alternative Dispute Resolution Section, Houston, Texas: "Mediator Skills Series - The Practical Aspects of Mediation Settlement Agreements", January 2015

World Forum of Mediation Centres, Krakow, Poland: "Dealing with Mediation," "Mining the Minds of Mediators," June, 2015

World Forum of Mediation Centres, Luxembourg City, Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg: "Enforcement of Mediation Settlement Agreements," April 2016

XIV Congreso Mundial de Mediación y Cultura de Paz, Buenos Aires, Argentina: "Mediación Obligatoria en Texas," Pronunciado en Español, September 2018

Webinar-The Evolution of Mediation in Texas, and tips for conducting a successful mediation. Hellenic Union of Mediators, January 17, 2022

Webinar-Effective Advocacy in Mediation: Preparation, Presentation and Persistence. Houston Bar Association. April 13, 2022.

World Forum of Mediation Centres, Málaga, Spain, Moderator: Mining the Minds of Mediators, September 2022