Curriculum Vitae

of One Mediator Matthew W. Argue



"Perseverance is the most important attribute for a mediator." – Matthew W. Argue

Overview Mr. Argue has been a full-time mediator since and arbitrator since 2004. He has over 37 years of experience in complex construction disputes, mediation and arbitration. Based in San Diego, he is a full-time neutral focusing on construction, insurance and real estate mediation and arbitration throughout Southern California. Mr. Argue has successfully mediated over 1,200 construction cases to settlement and been lead arbitrator on over 300 cases.

He handles a wide variety of construction claims cases both public and private works involving Airport construction projects, Port and Harbor District, public school construction, Los Angeles and Orange County Unified School Districts, Cal State University projects, metropolitan transit projects, railway projects, highway and roadway infrastructure, transportation projects, hotels, commercial developments, shopping centers, local government facilities, Federal facilities, military bases, schools, hospitals, medical research facilities, churches, warehouse data centers, City-wide sewer and water lateral project, water district, water treatment plants, universities, low-income affordable housing, residential luxury high-rise condominiums, large scale residential tract housing developments, student housing, and high-end luxury single-family homes. He has experience resolving disputes relating to change order disputes, Guaranteed Maximum Price contracts, budget disputes, cost overruns, construction failures, schedule critical path delays and inefficiency claims, disruption claims, labor inefficiencies, material escalation, force majeure, termination, liquidated damages, cardinal change, differing site conditions, defective construction (commercial and residential), condominium buildings, insurance coverage and bad faith claims.

He began his mediation training as a mediation extern for a distinguished Federal District Court Judge Lawrence Irving (Ret.), after which he obtained his Mediator's Credential from the National Conflict Resolution Center in San Diego and completed Pepperdine Law School's Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution mediator training programs focusing on "Mediating the Litigated Case" and "Mediating Complex Construction Disputes". Mr. Argue has furthered his mediation experience by co-mediating with prominent mediator Ross Hart. He has trained with some of the most notable mediators in California , including Randall Wulff, Esq., Craig Higgs, Esq. Scott Marcus, Esq. and Judge Herbert Hoffman (Ret.). After practicing as a trial lawyer involved in hundreds of mediations and arbitrations in Southern California for 13 years, Matthew W. Argue incorporated his own mediation company, "One Mediator" in 2004, focusing on real estate, insurance, and construction defect mediation and arbitration.

In 2006, Mr. Argue joined preeminent construction mediator Ross Hart at Arbitration, Mediation, Conciliation Center ("AMCC") in San Diego as a full-time AMCC Panel Neutral. Mr. Argue serves on the following mediation and arbitration panels: AMCC Panel of Construction Mediators; American Arbitration Association Panel of Complex Construction Mediators and Arbitrators; and California State License Board Arbitrator. Mr. Argue also serves as a Dispute Resolution Advisor and Dispute Resolution Board member for Caltrans.

Mr. Argue was an associate and then Partner with the San Diego law firm of Procopio, Cory, Hargreaves and Savitch LLP from 1989 to 2001. In 1997, he became the head of the construction litigation department for the firm.

As a trial lawyer, Mr. Argue represented both large developer defendants and plaintiffs in construction defect cases. Some of his more notable cases are: (1) representation of plaintiffs in the largest verdict at that time in San Diego County for a single-family residential construction defect case ($2.5 million), (2) representation of 84 plaintiffs in AAS v. Superior Court which was appealed to the California Supreme Court and changed the recovery of damages in construction defect cases, (3) representation of 300 plaintiffs in Marshall v. The Baldwin Company et al. for construction defect damages totaling over $25 million, and (4) representation of state-wide developer, The Grupe Company, in defense of construction defect cases throughout State of California.

Business

Mediator: 2004–Present
One Mediator – Carlsbad, CA

Attorney at Law: 1988–2001
Procopio, Cory, Hargreaves & Savitch – San Diego, CA

- Partner at 75 lawyer law firm
- Litigator–real estate, insurance, and construction defect
- Prosecution of construction defect cases, including high end custom single family residences, large mass tract single family developments, commercial and hotel properties, and condominium associations
- Litigation experience also includes insurance bad faith/Cumis counsel issues, mechanic's liens, landlord and tenant, real estate fraud cases, broker/agent disclosure laws, insurance law, and condemnation law

Education

University of Southern California Law Center (Juris Doctorate): 1986–1989
Los Angeles, CA

San Diego State University (Bachelor of Arts, Cum Laude): 1982–1986

San Diego, CA

Administrative Assistant to Member of Parliament ("MP"): 1986
House of Commons – London, England

Mediation Externship: April–Dec. 2004
Honorable J. Lawrence Irving (Ret.) – San Diego, CA

- Observation of retired Federal District Court Judge mediation practice

Calvary Chapel Bible College: 2001–2003
Murrieta, CA

Mediation Panels

American Arbitration Association Featured California Construction Mediator Panel

AMCC, Construction and Real Estate Mediator with Ross Hart, Esq.

American Arbitration Association Large Complex Commercial and Construction Mediation Panel

Construction Dispute Resolution Services, LLC, Construction Mediator

San Diego Superior Court Mediation Panel

Vista Superior Court Two Attorney Pro Tem Settlement Judge

Riverside County Bar Association Dispute Resolution Services ("DRS") Mediator

Formerly Riverside Superior Court Mediation Panel

Formerly Los Angeles Superior Court Mediation Panel

Arbitration Panels

American Arbitration Association, Large Complex Commercial and Construction Arbitrator

Arbitrator for the California State License Board

Construction Dispute Resolution Center, LLC, Construction Arbitrator

San Diego County Bar Association Attorney Fee Arbitrator

Riverside County Bar Association Dispute Resolution Services ("DRS") Arbitrator

Dispute Review Board

Dispute Resolution Advisor and Dispute Resolution Board member for Caltrans

Professional Affiliations

ABA Forum on the Construction Industry

American Bar Association's Dispute Resolution Section

Society of Construction Law – North America

Chairman of Real Estate Section of the Bar Association of North San Diego County (2006–2007)

Bar Association of North San Diego County's Alternative Dispute Resolution and Real Estate Sections

San Diego County Bar Association's Alternative Dispute Resolution and Construction Law Sections

Southwest Riverside County Bar Association, Board Member (2007)

Justice Ted Todd Inn of Court, Board Member (2007–2008)

Fiorenzo V. Lopardo Inn of Court

Riverside County Bar Association

California Dispute Resolution Council

Professional Licenses

California State Bar, Bar # 145134, 1989
Nevada State Bar, Bar # 6889, 1999
Colorado State Bar, Bar # 031418, 1999
Texas State Bar, Bar # 24029121, 2000
Washington State Bar, Bar # 30386, 2001
California Real Estate Broker, 2006

Speaking Engagements

Panel Speaker: American Arbitration Association's Construction Conference, "The Evolution of Construction Mediation: Timing, Strategy & the Mediator's Expanding Role", 2026

Panel Speaker: Construction Super Conference, "Moving the Immovable: Recalibrating the Construction Mediation Mindset", 2025

Panel Speaker: West Coast Casualty's Construction Defect Conference, "Advanced Insights, Tips and Best Practices from Experienced Mediators to Avoid Common Pitfalls in Mediation", 2025

Webinar: ABA Forum on Construction "Tool Box Talks", Tips from the Trenches: Use of Mediator's Proposal, 2025

Panel Speaker: Construction Super Conference, "Top 10 Issues to Address in ADR for a Better Solution in Construction Disputes", 2024

Panel Speaker: West Coast Casualty's Construction Defect Conference, "The Impact of Bankruptcy on Construction Defect Cases", 2021

Panel Speaker: West Coast Casualty's Construction Defect Conference, "Hiding the Ball: Mediating Fraud Issues in Construction Defect Cases", 2019

Instructor: "Substance Abuse and Work-Life Balance", approved for CLE for Orange Co. Bar Association, 2018

Panel Speaker: Construction Super Conference, Insurance and Surety Issues in Construction Defect Cases", 2017

Instructor: "Substance Abuse and Work-Life Balance", approved for CLE for the Nevada Bar Association, 2017

Panel Speaker: West Coast Casualty's Construction Defect Conference, "New Approaches to Claims Handling in Construction Defect Cases", 2016

Instructor: Advanced Ethical Issues In Mediation, approved by California State Bar for 1 Hour Ethics CLE Credit, 2013

Instructor: Substance Abuse and Work-Life Balance, Presented to Newmeyer & Dillion LLP, approved by the California State Bar for 1 Hour Substance Abuse CLE Credit, 2013

Panel Speaker: Claims Litigation Manager's Presentation on "Making Mediation More Effective", 2013

Instructor: "Tips to Help Prepare for Mediation", Presented to Lorber Greenfield Polito LLP, approved California State Bar for 1 Hour CLE Credit, 2013

Panel Speaker: Association of Southern California Defense Counsel and Construction Defect Claims Managers Association, Presentation on "It is not Impossible to Settle Early in the Mediation Process," 2013

Panel Speaker: HB Construction Litigation Conferences: Construction Leader's Forum, Panel Speaker, "Mediation: what's working and what's not", 2013

Panel Speaker: West Coast Casualty's Construction Defect Conference, "Arbitrate – Let's see you make me", 2012

Panel Speaker: West Coast Casualty's Construction Defect Conference, "Current Trends in Handling SB 800 Cases", 2012

Panel Speaker: HB Construction Litigation Conferences: Construction Leader's Forum, "Pre-litigation Settlements and Related Insurance Issues", 2012

Instructor: American Arbitration Association ACE Arbitrator Training Program, "Managing the Arbitration Process for Efficiency and Economy Following the Preliminary Hearing", 2012

Panel Speaker: MC Consultant's Western Region Construction Conference, "What is working and what is not in resolving construction defect cases", 2011

Instructor: "Substance Abuse and Work-Life Balance", approved for CLE for the San Diego County Bar Association on September 13, 2011, at the Carmel Valley Bar Association, San Diego, CA.

Panel Speaker: Vendome Construction Super Conference, 2009

Panel Speaker: West Coast Casualty Annual Construction Defect Conference, 2000, 2001, 2007, 2008, and 2009

Panel Speaker: Fiorenzo V. Lopardo Inn of Court, "Mediation Techniques", 2009

Panel Speaker: Justice Ted Todd Inn of Court, "Mediation Insights", with Judge Lawrence Irving (Ret.), 2008

Panel Speaker: Orange County Bar Association's ADR and Construction Law Sections, "Use of Mediation in Construction Defect Cases – What You Can Do To Make It Settle – Insights from Top Mediators", with Alexander Robertson and Alex Polsky, 2007

Panel Speaker: San Diego County Bar Association's Construction Law Section, "How to Fast Track a Construction Defect Mediation", with Judge Stephen Sundvold and Judge Robert May, 2006

Panel Speaker: Bar Association of Northern San Diego County, "Effectively Resolving Construction Defect Cases", with Judge Stephen Sundvold and Judge Ronald Styn, 2006

Panel Speaker: San Diego County Bar Association's Construction Law Section, "Mediation of Construction Defect Cases", with Mediator/Attorney James Chodzco, 2005

Panel Speaker: Mealy's Annual Construction Defect Conference, 2000

Panel Speaker: San Diego County Bar Association, "Impact of AAS v. Superior Court on Construction Defect Litigation", 2000

Panel Speaker: Orange County Bar Association, "Aftermath of AAS v. Superior Court", 2000

Panel Speaker: Clark County Bar Association, "Pursuing Construction Defect Cases – Plaintiff's Perspective", 2000

Publications

American Arbitration Association's Mediation Magazine, ***Mediation Endgame: How Experienced Practitioners Can Best Use the Mediator's Proposal to Settle Hard Cases,*** 2026

ABA Forum on Construction Dispute Resolver, ***Mediation Success: Strategies for Avoiding Prolonged Litigation and Getting to 'Settled',*** 2025

American Arbitration Association's Dispute Resolution Journal, ***Mediating with Emotional Intelligence: The Interplay of Emotions and Rationale Decision-Making,*** August/October 2017

American Arbitration Association's Dispute Resolution Journal, ***Mediating with Emotional Intelligence: When IQ is Not Enough!,*** August/October 2015

American Arbitration Association's Dispute Resolution Journal, ***Timing is Everything: When is the Best Time to Resolve a Construction Defect Case?,*** August/October 2013

American Inn's of Court Magazine, The Bencher, ***Balancing Work and Life after Two Types of Cancer,*** 2010

American Arbitration Association's Dispute Resolution Journal, ***Do's and Don'ts of Representing Clients in Mediation,*** August/October 2009

Los Angeles Daily Journal, ***Mandatory Settlement Conferences Save Court's Time,*** Resources, 2009

Los Angeles Daily Journal, Business, ***Private Life Collide in Luxury-Home Mediations,*** 2007

North County Lawyer, ***Mediation of Luxury Home Construction Defect Cases,*** 2007

Los Angeles Daily Journal, ***Renovating Recovery: In the wake of the California Supreme Court's 'Aas' decision, construction defect plaintiffs may have to rethink damage claims,*** 2001

Nevada Lawyer, The Economic Loss Rule and Construction Defect Litigation, 2000

Condo Management Magazine, ***The Economic Loss Rule: A Potential Nightmare for HOAs and Homeowners,*** 1998

Condo Management Magazine, ***Stigma Loss a Real Issue for Homeowners,*** 1998

National Law Journal, ***Agents Now are Liable to Buyers,*** 1995

Continuing Education

American Arbitration Association Neutrals Conferences, 2023, 2025, 2027 (various locations)

ABA Forum on Construction Annual Conferences, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026 (various locations)

Construction Super Conference, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026 (various locations)

Society of Construction Law – North America, Annual Conference, 2023, 2024, 2025

California Construction Law Annual Update Conferences in Los Angeles, CA, 2022, 2023, 2024 ,2025, 2026, 2027

CLM Annual Construction Conferences, 2023, 2024, 2026

Perrin Construction Annual Conferences, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025

Texas Construction Conference, San Antonio, TX, 2026, 2027

West Coast Casualty's Construction Defect Annual Conferences, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026

Society of Construction Law – North America, Denver, CO, *Lessons Learned in Managing Construction Disputes*, 2022, 15 hours

Construction Super Conference, Las Vegas, NV, 2019, 15 hours

Construction Super Conference, San Francisco, CA, 2018, 15 hours

Construction Super Conference, San Francisco, CA, 2017, 15 hours

Construction Super Conference, San Francisco, CA, 2016, 15 hours

Construction Super Conference, San Francisco, CA, 2013, 15 hours

NCRC Court Appointed Mediator Training, 2013, 4 hours

American Arbitration Association Court Appointed Mediator Training, 2011, 4 hours

American Arbitration Association's Advanced Mediation Techniques, 2010, 4 hours

American Arbitration Association's ICDR Neutrals Conference, 2009

Construction Super Conference, San Francisco, CA, 2008 , 15 hours

National Conflict Resolution Center, "Mediator Jeopardy," 2008, 4 hours

Los Angeles Superior Court ADR Committee Mediation Training on "Overcoming Impasse," 2007

American Arbitration Association's Construction Mediation Conference, 2007

American Arbitration Association's ACE Training for Construction Panel Arbitrators, 2007

Arbitration Mediation Conciliation Center ("AMCC") Arbitrator Training for the California State License Board, 2007–2012

American Arbitration Association Program on "Complex Construction Arbitration," 2006

Construction Dispute Resolution Services' Training Program in the Theory, Practice and Rules of Dispute Review Board, 2006

Construction Dispute Resolution Services' Training Program in the Theory, Practice and Rules of Arbitration, 2006

International Academy of Mediators Conference, "Meeting of the Minds," 2005

National Conflict Resolution Center, Mediator Credentialing Program, 2005

Pepperdine Law School's Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution mediation training program: Mediating Complex Construction Disputes, 2005

Pepperdine Law School's Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution mediation training program: Mediating the Litigated Case, 2004

National Conflict Resolution Center, Mediators Training, 2004

Other Experience

Expert Witness for legal malpractice case involving underlying construction dispute.

Guest Lecturer for University of Southern California Law Center, Alternative Dispute Resolution, Brenda Radmacher, Esq. and Mediator Alex Polsky, 2009-2012

Guest Lecturer for University of Southern California Law Center, Real Estate Transactions Class, Professor George Lefcoe, 2007-2009

Community Service

Catherine's Kids Orphanage for special needs and medically fragile children, Rosarito, Mexico
2015-Present, Board Member

RESOLVE Biblical Mediation with Peacemaker's Ministries, Emmanuel Faith Community Church
2012–2013

KAIROS – Donovan Prison Ministry
Volunteer 2005–2011, Board Member (2007–2008)

Boys and Girls Club, San Diego
Board Member, 1999–2001

Family Support Foundation
Mentor for Teenager, 1997–1998

The Wellness Community, San Diego
Club Wellness Board Member, 1993–1994

San Diego League,
Board Member, 1990–1994

Commonwealth of Massachusetts "Upward Bound" Program
Counselor, Summer 1987

Special Interests

My wife and two boys

Travel and Golf Abroad

England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, France, Italy, Spain, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Greece, Yugoslavia, Hungary, Russia, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Netherlands, Israel, Canada, Mexico, and Hawaii