

# Daily Journal

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## CALIFORNIA'S TOP 50 NEUTRALS

### Editors' Note

Across the state, judges are curtailing operations devoted to civil cases. ADR is more crucial than ever.

California is fortunate to have a mature and robust ADR industry. Hundreds of seasoned former judges and lawyers are especially skilled at mediating and arbitrating cases. The problem sometimes lies in deciding whom to choose. That's where this list comes in. We have sought to identify 50 of the very best mediators and arbitrators working in California. We also have highlighted 10 up-and-comers you may not yet know. We don't mean to say that these neutrals are the only ones you should choose but they are among the very best.

— The Editors

**M**ediation is becoming “the new normal,” Barr said, given the economic crisis and dwindling court resources.

There is a growing sophistication in the profession, she said, including from those who use mediation services.

“It’s much more interesting to mediate today than it was 10 years ago,” Barr said. “I’m working with more sophisticated people, and we can work in more collaborative ways. It’s more fun. We all brainstorm together to get the best result.”

A full-time mediator for more than a dozen years, Barr estimates she has resolved more than a thousand disputes focusing on complex, multiparty cases, including in educational and corporate settings.

These days, she said, “As mediation training becomes part of the law school curriculum, practicing lawyers are bringing a new and broader set of expectations to their mediations, which allows me greater flexibility to tailor each mediation to the needs of the participants.”

As people view mediation as a viable profession, she added, “It will attract more diverse mediators. We need diversity to reflect the demographics of Southern California.”

Still, entry into the profession is a highly personal one, she added.

“I don’t know of any institution that can make you a great mediator. Law schools should be training all sorts of people.

“But at the end of the day, someone who is going into mediation needs to be somewhat entrepreneurial and be able to develop a business on their own.”

— Pat Broderick



FILE PHOTO

### Eleanor Barr

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