

Get to Know Steve Sepassi, Esq.



With a background that spans aerospace engineering, real estate, and nearly three decades of civil litigation, **Steve Sepassi, Esq.** brings intellectual rigor, grounded empathy, and a calm, balanced presence to his work as a mediator and arbitrator. A natural problem-solver with a knack for connecting with people from all walks of life, Steve has resolved hundreds of disputes and continues to be driven by one central goal: helping people move on.

Q: How did your legal career begin—and how did it evolve into dispute resolution?

Sepassi: I started my law career nearly 30 years ago after previously working in engineering and managing a real estate and mortgage business. Over the years, I litigated a wide range of civil cases—personal injury, product liability, real estate sales disputes, contracts, and fraud. I’ve handled matters for both plaintiffs and insurance defense. Eventually, I found myself drawn to resolution. I saw too many cases go all the way to trial—expensive, draining, and unnecessary. Many were perfect candidates for settlement. That’s what sparked my interest in becoming a neutral.

Q: What are your areas of subject matter expertise?

Sepassi: Personal injury is a major focus for me—on both sides of the aisle. I also have extensive knowledge of real estate sales disputes. I’ve held a California real estate broker license since 1989, and though I don’t broker deals professionally anymore, that experience gives me a strong understanding of the issues in real estate conflicts.

Q: What do you consider your core strengths as a neutral?

Sepassi: I’m an even-keeled, open-minded listener. I focus on the key issues, and I’m good at helping people—especially those unfamiliar with the legal process—understand where they stand. My job is to guide the conversation, identify risks and opportunities, and help people make informed decisions. Integrity and kindness are non-negotiable for me. I bring those values into every session.

Q: What are some career accomplishments that stand out to you?

Sepassi: There are a few cases I’ll never forget. One involved defending the retirement account of a recently divorced, abused woman. I was able to convince the court to shield her account from creditors. It made a real difference in her life. Another was a fraud case involving the sale of a pharmacy—I won a significant judgment at trial and preserved it on appeal. And of course, there are hard-fought losses too. I once brought a product liability case against Kia Motors, and we lost. But I learned a lot. Every trial teaches you something.

Areas of Expertise:

- **Personal Injury** (including catastrophic injury, wrongful death, premises liability, product liability and UM/UIM matters)
- **Real Estate** (including fraud, buyer/seller, habitability, HOA conflicts, and landlord-tenant matters)
- **School Liability**
- **Business and Commercial Disputes**

Q: What motivates you in your dispute resolution work?

Sepassi: I love helping people resolve conflict so they can focus on other things—family, work, life. There's something profoundly rewarding about watching people set down a burden they've been carrying and walk away with peace of mind.

Q: What does your preparation process look like?

Sepassi: I require mediation briefs and read them thoroughly. Then, one to two days before the session, I speak with counsel. I want to know not just the legal arguments but the human side—the motivations, the emotions, the history. That helps me connect with the clients during mediation. If we don't resolve the matter that day, I follow up. I check in, look for developments, and keep the conversation going.

Q: How do you help parties move past impasse?

Sepassi: I bring them back to the big picture: What's your ultimate goal? I ask each side to identify the weaknesses in their own case—that shifts their perspective. I also use traditional tools like "what if" scenarios, bracketing, or a Mediator's Proposal if appropriate.

Q: What about your personal background makes you an effective neutral?

Sepassi: My career has spanned engineering, aerospace management, and real estate before law. I've worked with people from all backgrounds—scientists, contractors, entrepreneurs. I also raised two sons with my wife—one went to Harvard, the other to Michigan. Parenting teaches you a lot about patience and empathy.

Q: Do you arbitrate as well as mediate?

Sepassi: Yes, I've served as an arbitrator and also handled UIM arbitrations during my litigation career. My arbitration style is thoughtful and thorough. I conduct a pre-hearing case management conference, encourage in-person testimony, and ask questions to make sure I understand each party's position. I'm flexible on evidentiary rules but firm on fairness.

Q: How would attorneys who've worked with you describe your style?

Sepassi: I hope they'd say that I listen deeply, focus on the key issues, bring useful information to the table, and offer creative solutions. But above all, I hope they'd say I helped settle the case.

Mediation with an Engineer's Eye and a Human Touch.

Whether untangling complex real estate disputes, resolving deeply personal injury claims, or guiding parties toward closure in contentious litigation, Steve Sepassi combines decades of practical experience with a compassionate, methodical approach. With hundreds of mediations already behind him, his reputation continues to grow—as does his impact in helping litigants find common ground and move forward.

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