



HON. LESLIE G. LANDAU (RET.)

Mediator • Arbitrator • Private Judge



Hon. Leslie G. Landau (Ret.) joined ADR Services, Inc. in 2023 after 20 years of distinguished service as a Judge of the Superior Court for the County of Contra Costa.

Judge Landau sat in multiple assignments during her 20-year judicial tenure, including criminal, juvenile, and family law. In two tours in the Family Division, she presided over thousands of contested and complex family law matters – settlement conferences, short-cause hearings, and long-cause trials -- involving every conceivable issue arising in family law. She became well-versed in the nuances of issues including child custody and visitation, child and spousal support, marital dissolution, division of property, business valuation, complex accounting, move-aways, and separate property tracing disputes. Judge Landau served as the Supervising Judge of the Family Division of the Court, working closely with the Bar to help shepherd the Court's move to electronic filing, adopt hybrid appearance technology and rules, and assure access to justice as the Court managed and emerged from the COVID crisis.

Prior to her appointment to the bench, Judge Landau was a Partner at McCutchen, Doyle, Brown & Enersen in San Francisco. She developed a specialty in appeals, argued cases for clients in appellate courts throughout the country, and was national appellate counsel for several automobile manufacturers. Her appellate practice required her to quickly master legal issues and complex factual matters across a broad range of substantive areas, including product liability, federal securities law, federal preemption and other constitutional issues. She was elected a member of the California Academy of Appellate Lawyers in 2000.

Judge Landau has been recognized by the legal community for being hardworking, a deep legal thinker, a quick study, human and fair. She is a thoughtful and creative jurist, as good with people as she is with complex and subtle legal issues. Her ability to see and connect with the people behind the disputes make her an effective mediator and communicator. Her clear writing makes her decisions understandable and compelling. She anticipates issues, particularly in complex custody and business disputes, assisting parties in managing potential pitfalls and crafting decisions that account for them. In 2023, she was honored as Trial Judge of the Year by the Alameda-Contra Costa Trial Lawyers Association (ACCTLA).

FAMILY LAW EXPERTISE

Character, Valuation and Division of Property: accounting for separate property contributions to community property and community contributions to separate property; tracing for separate property reimbursement claims; business valuation; valuation and division of unusual and illiquid assets; accounting for non-salary compensation, including performance bonuses, commissions, stock distribution and stock options; deferred compensation and post-separation buyout of vacation accrued during marriage; reimbursement and post-separation accounting; claims of fiduciary breach.

Child Custody and Visitation: high conflict parents, parental substance abuse, physical abuse, sexual abuse, domestic violence, parental alienation and estrangement; children with physical and mental health challenges, learning differences, refuse/resist dynamics, school refusal, gender dysphoria; school choice and home schooling; “move away” disputes.

Spousal and Child Support: establishment, modification, and enforcement of support orders; income available for support, including self-employment income, income tax write offs and

depreciation, cash wages, investment and rental income, family gifts, loans, disability, vocational evaluations, and imputed income; support for adult children under Family Code section 3910.

Contested Separation Date: divergent separation date claims; equivocal communication about separation.

Post-Judgment Issues: modification of permanent spousal support, omitted assets, fraud claims.

JUDICIAL EXPERIENCE

Judge of the Superior Court, County of Contra Costa **2003-2023**
Supervising Judge of Family Court, 2022-2023.
Family Law, 2015-2018, 2022-2023.
Appellate Division, 2011-2023.
Juvenile Justice and Juvenile Dependency, 2018-2021.
Member of Executive Committee, 2013-2015, 2022-2023.
Supervising Judge of Richmond Branch, 2013-2015.
Criminal Law, 2003-2015.

PRIOR LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Partner, McCutchen, Doyle, Brown & Enersen (later Bingham McCutchen) **1984-2003**
Managing Partner of San Francisco office, 2002-2003. Chair of Appellate Group, 2000-2003.
Involved in the creation and management of Women's Mentoring Program for women associates.
Partner since 1990.

University of California, Hastings College of the Law **1987, 1991**
Adjunct Associate Professor of Remedies, 1987. Lecturer, Moot Court Program, 1991.

Law Clerk to the Honorable William E. Doyle **1983-1984**
United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit, Denver, Colorado.

EDUCATION

J.D., cum laude, Cornell Law School, Ithaca, NY **1983**
Article Editor, Cornell Law Review. Student Counsel, Cornell Legal Aid Clinic. Director, Gilbert & Sullivan's *Trial by Jury*.

B.A. magna cum laude, Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT **1980**
Majors in Psychology and French Literature. Received Limbach Prize for Outstanding Community Service for founding Rape Crisis Center serving central Connecticut.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Lawyer Representative to the USDC Northern District Judicial Conference
Co-Chair of the Northern District Judicial Conference
Elected Member of California Academy of Appellate Lawyers,
Member of Board of Directors and Chair of Amicus Committee, California Women Lawyers
Member of Board of Directors, San Francisco Women Lawyers Alliance
Member of Litigation Committee, Equal Rights Advocates