



DEBRA L. BOGAARDS, ESQ.

MEDIATOR • ARBITRATOR



Your Partner in Resolutio

Debra Bogaards, Esq. has served as a private mediator for over five years, as well as a mandatory settlement conference officer in San Francisco for over five years and in Marin County for almost 30 years. Her extensive career highlights a remarkable track record of successfully mediating hundreds of cases, achieving a consistent settlement rate above 98%. Ms. Bogaards brings a distinct advantage to her role, offering a clear and balanced perspective derived from having represented both plaintiffs and defendants throughout her 40-year career.

Ms. Bogaards' subject matter expertise includes a wide range of employment issues in individual and multi-party cases involving wage and hour disputes, discrimination (across all protected classes), sexual harassment, retaliation, wrongful termination, whistleblowing, defamation, fraud, and reductions in workforce. Her expertise extends to personal injury matters including catastrophic injury, wrongful death, toxic tort, sexual abuse, and rideshare (Uber and Lyft) cases, elder neglect and abuse, as well as landlord-tenant disputes, including wrongful eviction and breaches of habitability like mold and carbon-monoxide exposure.

Ms. Bogaards brings nearly 25 years of experience managing two insurance defense firms and 7 years as an associate, providing her with a profound understanding of how claims representatives set reserves, evaluate cases to determine value, and negotiate settlements. With 15 years of plaintiff's work overlapping her defense practice and over six years exclusively on the plaintiff's side, she possesses a comprehensive perspective on personal injury cases. Ms. Bogaards is adept at calculating Howell medical specials, analyzing wage loss claims, reviewing life care plans, assessing economic damages, as well as discussing expert retention and trial budgets. Her experience, including almost 40 successful jury trials, enhances her effectiveness as a mediator in personal injury matters.

Ms. Bogaards embodies warmth, compassion, and empathy, while also maintaining a straightforward, direct, and no-nonsense approach. She adeptly discusses the strengths and weaknesses of a case with attorneys or parties directly, employing a polite, respectful, and professional manner. Her extensive experience earns the respect of seasoned trial attorneys, making them attentive to her insights. With grit, perseverance, and determination, Ms. Bogaards is committed to settling your case.

As a mediator, Ms. Bogaards has earned a reputation as a quick study capable of identifying the key issues in the heart of a dispute. The "secret" to her success lies in meticulous pre-mediation preparation, including a thorough review of all case materials. During the pre-mediation conference, expect a detailed discussion of your case's strengths and weaknesses, potentially accompanied by additional homework. In the event that the case doesn't settle at the hearing, Ms. Bogaards offers continued phone calls and follow-up at no extra cost until a resolution is achieved.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

PERSONAL INJURY: motor vehicle accidents; public entity liability; premises liability; trip and fall; traumatic brain injury (TBI); sexual abuse; bicycle accidents; pedestrian accidents; train accidents; dog bite; product liability; wrongful death and catastrophic injury; psychological injury.

LANDLORD/TENANT: habitability issues arising from noise, mold, vermin, heating, plumbing, roof leaks, and electrical; inadequate repairs; constructive evictions; multi-unit buildings.

EMPLOYMENT: sexual harassment; wrongful termination; retaliation; discrimination (across all protected classes); failure to accommodate.

SEXUAL ABUSE: by teachers and coaches in a school district; religious leaders in a church; peer on peer abuse in a residential home for teenage students.

ELDER NEGLECT AND ABUSE: failure to provide medication; failure to prevent bed sores leading to the death of the patient.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

ADR Services, Inc. **2024-Present**
Full-time mediator and arbitrator specializing in resolving Personal Injury, Landlord/Tenant, and Employment, Sexual Abuse, and Elder Abuse disputes.

UC Law San Francisco's Center for Negotiation & Dispute Resolution **2023-Present**
Adjunct Faculty in "Negotiation and Settlement".

Bogaards Law **2017-2023**
Solo practice on behalf of plaintiffs in personal injury, wrongful death, landlord/tenant, medical malpractice, sexual abuse, elder abuse, toxic tort and employment law.

Pave & Bogaards and Bogaards Davis **1994-2017**
Managing Partner and Senior Trial Attorney handling insurance defense and plaintiffs' work.

Associate with Various Insurance Defense Firms **1983-1993**

Holman Fenwick (London) and Loeff & Van De Plufg (The Netherlands) **1982-1983**
Post-J.D. law student in Salzburg, Austria as well as clerkships at two maritime firms.

EDUCATION

Harvard Advanced Mediation Training 2019

Certificate of International Law, McGeorge School of Law, Salzburg, Austria 1983

J.D., University of California College of the Law, San Francisco 1981

B.S. in Accounting & Finance, University of California at Berkeley 1978