



GIDEON KRACOV, ESQ.

Mediator • Special Master



Gideon Kracov, Esq. is a distinguished mediator with 30 years of experience specializing in civil, environmental, and real estate cases. Mr. Kracov offers demonstrated expertise honed by 30 years of experience providing dispute resolution services to a diverse clientele, including businesses, individuals, labor organizations, and non-profit entities. He has an extensive background in navigating complex legal matters, coupled with significant experience in handling governmental affairs at the highest levels of California state government. The *Daily Journal* describes Mr. Kracov as a “highly collaborative” and “pragmatic” mediator with a “committed approach to preparation.” He has “credibility with all parties, perhaps the highest currency.” Mr. Kracov offers both in-person and virtual mediation services as a highly effective alternative to protracted litigation, working diligently with the parties every step of the way - from pre-mediation calls to post-mediation follow-up - towards resolving the dispute.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

CIVIL LAW:

- Breach of Contract
- Class Actions
- Employment
- Landlord/Tenant
- Personal Injury and Wrongful Death
- Products Liability

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW:

- California Environmental Quality Act
- CERCLA and Toxic Torts
- Clean Air Act and Climate
- Clean Water Act and Stormwater
- Coastal Act and Natural Resources
- Contaminated Property
- Environmental Justice
- Nuisance and Private Enforcement
- Proposition 65

REAL ESTATE AND PUBLIC ENTITY LAW:

- Administrative and Municipal Law
- Condemnation
- Easements, Encroachment and Trees
- Government Oversight
- Homeowners’ Disputes
- Public Policy Disputes
- Real Estate Development and Sales
- Zoning Entitlements and Land Use

BIOGRAPHY AND EXPERIENCE

*Berkeley Law, University of California, Berkeley
J.D. and Environmental Law Certificate, 1995*

*University of California, Berkeley
B.A. with high honors, 1992*

With a diverse background representing plaintiffs, defendants, and governmental entities, Mr. Kracov is uniquely positioned to mediate complex civil disputes. His experience includes serving as a Deputy Los Angeles City Attorney in the Real Property Division, where he counseled the Departments of Planning and Sanitation on public works and real estate projects and successfully defended the City in high-stakes trials. Notably, he played a pivotal role in negotiating a \$168 million settlement for the removal of trash from the Los Angeles River and advised on the City's property redevelopment initiatives. In addition, Mr. Kracov led civil prosecutions in the City Attorney's Environmental Protection Unit.

Prior to his public sector tenure, Mr. Kracov practiced at Rose, Klein & Marias LLP, a prominent plaintiff's trial law firm, handling toxic tort and personal injury cases that helped shape these areas of the law. He began his legal career at the prestigious Los Angeles firm Weston Benshoof LLP (now Alston & Bird LLP), where his practice involved toxic tort defense for Fortune 500 clients in product liability, mass tort, and environmental contamination cases.

Mr. Kracov holds the esteemed title of Thomson Reuters California Super Lawyer, a distinction reserved for the top 5 percent of lawyers. He received specialized training in "Mediating the Litigated Case" from the Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution at Pepperdine University School of Law. Additionally, he is a member of the U.S. District Court, Central District of California, Mediation Panel, where he contributes his expertise in facilitating settlements. He also serves as a settlement officer for the Los Angeles Superior Court's Resolve Law Mandatory Civil Settlement Conference Program and provides mediation services at the Center for Conflict Resolution.

Beyond his legal practice, Mr. Kracov has made significant contributions to the legal community. He is the former Chair of the California Lawyers Association Environmental Law Section, Executive Committee. In that role, he led educational and program activities for over 2,500 section members. As a member of the adjunct faculty at Loyola Law School, he imparts his knowledge of land use law and regulation to future legal professionals. Notably, Mr. Kracov proudly coached the Loyola Law School team to first place in the 20th Annual California Lawyers Association Environmental Law Student Negotiation Competition.

Mr. Kracov serves as the Governor's appointee to the California Air Resources Board (CARB), the state's lead air pollution and climate change regulatory agency. He also serves as the Governor's appointee to the South Coast Air Quality Management District Governing Board. In these roles, he navigates complex public policy issues, engaging with diverse stakeholders to achieve satisfactory outcomes while upholding trust and accessibility. Previously, he chaired the three-member Department of Toxic Substances Independent Review Panel, overseeing governance of the agency responsible for the cleanup of contaminated properties throughout California.