

Get to Know Ted Levin, P.E., Esq.



With nearly four decades of civil litigation experience and a professional background in engineering, **Ted Levin, P.E., Esq.** brings a uniquely technical, analytical, and solution-oriented perspective to his work as a neutral at ADR Services, Inc. Known for his deep expertise in construction law and his calm, evaluative approach to mediation and arbitration, Levin blends legal insight with real-world practicality. We sat down with him to talk about how his engineering mindset shaped his legal career, why he's drawn to dispute resolution, and what attorneys can expect when working with him.

Q: Tell us about your civil litigation experience.

Levin: I've been a civil litigator for 38 years, handling matters in both state and federal courts. I've led hundreds of cases through trial, binding arbitration, and mediation. While my practice has covered a range of disputes, my core focus—and where I've built the most depth—is in construction law.

Q: What are your subject matter specialties?

Levin: Construction law is where I've spent most of my career. But over the years, I've also handled matters involving insurance coverage, personal injury, products liability, real estate, and business disputes. That broad base allows me to help clients and counsel navigate multi-issue cases with confidence.

Q: What are your core strengths as a neutral?

Levin: My background as a professional engineer gives me a strategic and analytical edge—especially in construction-related matters. I'm able to break down technical issues clearly and approach them in a logical, problem-solving way. More broadly, I bring patience, focus, and persistence. I listen carefully and work hard to move things forward, even when the process gets difficult.

Q: What are you most proud of in your legal career?

Levin: I'm proud of the way I've blended my engineering experience into a successful construction law practice. I've also been fortunate to share that knowledge with others through speaking and writing. And I've enjoyed the challenge of transitioning into ADR—bringing together everything I've learned over the years to help parties resolve disputes efficiently and constructively.

Areas of Expertise:

- Construction Law/Construction Defect
- Professional Liability
- Personal Injury
- Products Liability
- Real Estate
- Commercial Contracts

Q: What drew you to dispute resolution?

Levin: Early in my career, I realized I had a strong instinct for mediation. I remember one case involving major flooding at a hospital—the complexity of the negotiation and the pace of the back-and-forth really stayed with me. I found myself gravitating toward the dynamics of settlement, and I knew I wanted to build that into my professional path.

Q: When parties are at an impasse, how do you help them move forward?

Levin: I ask each side to reexamine their assumptions and consider the totality of the discussion. Often, a shift in perception—combined with a clear-eyed look at the cost and risk of litigation—opens up new paths to settlement. Sometimes it helps to isolate a smaller issue and work through that first. And in technical cases, further expert analysis or targeted information exchange can break the deadlock.

Q: What's your mediation philosophy?

Levin: I want the parties to feel fully heard—and then use that information to provide an evaluative framework for resolving the case. My style is thoughtful and practical. I remain open to new information throughout the session and adapt my approach based on what the parties need to move forward.

Q: How do you prepare for mediation?

Levin: I study the pleadings and available documents thoroughly, especially contracts and project documentation in construction matters. I speak with counsel beforehand to understand their goals, positions, and any obstacles to resolution. Then I develop a strategy tailored to the case and the personalities involved.

Q: How would attorneys describe you?

Levin: They'd likely say I'm knowledgeable—especially in construction cases—patient, and diligent. I work hard to keep things moving, even when the process gets stuck. I also pay attention to factors beyond the legal issues, like emotion or interpersonal dynamics, that may be affecting resolution.

Q: Have you handled any notable cases in your litigation career?

Levin: Yes—several. One involved defending an engineer in a case about concrete mix design, which led to an appellate decision on the economic loss rule. Another involved flooding of beachfront condominiums following a beach reconstruction. I also handled a case involving naturally occurring asbestos from a construction project on Santa Catalina Island.

Q: Do you arbitrate as well?

Levin: Yes. In arbitration, I take a more structured, decisive approach—reviewing the evidence thoroughly and providing clear rulings grounded in the law. I guide the process efficiently, but I also make sure the parties feel heard and respected. As an arbitrator, my role is to control the outcome and provide finality. I give the parties clear expectations around submissions, scheduling, and hearing procedures. I treat counsel and witnesses with respect and make sure they feel their input is valued. That builds trust and creates a better environment for presenting and evaluating evidence.

Engineering Resolution, One Case at a Time.

With a foundation in both law and engineering, Ted Levin approaches mediation and arbitration with clarity, rigor, and commitment. He brings the strategic mindset and calm persistence that help parties move from impasse to resolution—logically, efficiently, and with confidence.