



GIDEON KRACOV, ESQ.

Mediator • Special Master



Gideon Kracov is a distinguished mediator with thirty years of experience in civil, real estate, and environmental matters. He has an extensive background navigating complex legal disputes, coupled with significant experience at the highest levels of California state government. Using his mediation and facilitation skills, Mr. Kracov can break through impasse and settle before litigation, and after lawsuits are filed. The Daily Journal describes him 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 an 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
- Consumer Class Actions
- Labor, Employment, and Civil Rights
- Personal Injury and Wrongful Death
- Products Liability
- Administrative and Municipal Law

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW:

- California Environmental Quality Act
- Contaminated Property and Toxic Torts
- Clean Air Act and Climate
- Clean Water Act and Water Rights
- Coastal Act and Natural Resources
- Environmental Justice
- Nuisance and Private Enforcement
- Energy Siting and Permitting
- Proposition 65

REAL ESTATE AND PUBLIC ENTITY LAW:

- Landlord/Tenant
- Eminent Domain / Inverse Condemnation
- Easements, Encroachment and Trees
- Homeowners' Disputes
- Real Estate Contracts
- 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 helped negotiate 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. He provides mediation and dispute resolution services for the planning and buildout of LA Metro's 2028 Olympic Games transportation infrastructure and operations program.

Prior to his public sector tenure, Mr. Kracov practiced at Rose, Klein & Marias LLP, a prominent plaintiffs 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 Benschopf LLP (now Alston & Bird LLP), where he defended Fortune 500 clients in product liability lawsuits. He has handled cutting-edge consumer and environmental tort class actions. He has worked with the largest labor unions in California in highly complex, hard-fought negotiations, settlements and trials.

Mr. Kracov is a Thomson Reuters California Super Lawyer, limited to the top 5 percent of lawyers. He serves on mediation panels for the U.S.E.P.A., U.S. District Court Central District of California, California Association of Realtors, California Department of Civil Rights, Community Association Institute, Los Angeles Superior Court and Center on Conflict Resolution. He has trained in dispute facilitation and mediation at the Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution at Pepperdine Caruso School of Law, Udall National Center for Environmental Conflict Resolution, International Association for Public Participation, and MIT Renewable Energy Clinic.

Beyond his mediation 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 teaches land use law and dispute resolution techniques to future legal professionals. Notably, Mr. Kracov coached the Loyola Law School team to first place in the 20th Annual California Lawyers Association Environmental Law Student Negotiation Competition. He currently serves as Vice-Chair of the Los Angeles County Bar Association Alternative Dispute Resolution Section.

Active in public service, Mr. Kracov served 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 served as the Governor's appointee to the South Coast Air Quality Management District Governing Board. He is very familiar with 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.