



Gerald P. Lorentz, Esq.

Gerald P. Lorentz, Esq. has more than twenty-five years of professional experience as an attorney appearing before state and federal courts, as a small claims court judge, a superior court arbitrator, and District of Columbia Superior Court mediator where he skillfully mediated a wide variety of cases as the only full-time civil mediator for the court. Mr. Lorentz has filed over one thousand Chapter 7 and Chapter 13 Bankruptcy petitions while practicing law in the 1980s and 1990s. The D.C. Superior Court civil judges have widely praised his consistent successes. Moreover, he established an innovative and highly regarded mediation program for the D.C. Superior Court involving landlords and tenants.

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ADR Experience and Qualifications

- Regularly mediated complex cases for the District of Columbia Superior Court from 2002 to 2007. These cases ranged from multiparty construction and real estate matters, employment discrimination and whistle-blower disputes, various claims for injunctive relief, breach of contract, fraud, negligence, defamation, wrongful death, medical malpractice, as well as the District of Columbia baseball stadium cases. He was the founder, manager, and formerly the principal mediator for a successful and innovative mediation project in the District of Columbia Superior Court Landlord and Tenant Branch that has significantly reduced the court's caseload. He mediated three to six cases per day, while coordinating with judges, attorneys, and litigants in a process that garnered widespread praise. He was the founder, manager, and formerly the principal mediator for a successful real property tax lien mediation program. He also conducted training for mediators participating in the programs, focusing on interest-based negotiation principles, listening skills, and interpersonal relations.
- Consulted and lectured on various legal topics related to individual rights and alternative dispute resolution in Ukraine from 2001-2002.
- As an adjudicator for the District of Columbia from 1998 to 2000, adjudicated thousands of traffic cases based on the law, evidence, procedural guidelines, and credibility of the parties.
- Established an office for Aetna in Washington, D.C. for the purpose of negotiating the resolution of environmental claims for Aetna on a national basis. Creatively used tax-free annuities to negotiate personal injury settlements that bridged the gap between the needs of the claimant and the resources of the defendant.
- As an attorney in private practice in San Jose from 1981 to 1995, litigated, negotiated, and settled over two thousand cases in state and federal courts as part of a general and small business law practice. Served as a California Small Claims Court judge where litigants with commercial and noncommercial disputes of less than five thousand dollars appeared before him. For the California Superior Court, arbitrated commercial and noncommercial disputes involving a wide range of complex issues, and mediated for the Santa Clara County Municipal Court.

Case Manager

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Representative Matters

Representative D.C. Superior Court matters mediated include the following:

- Business: contract disputes including claims for fraud, breach of fiduciary duty, tortious interference with contract; dissolution of partnerships; anti-trust case; dispute between prospective lessor and bank; consumer protection claims
- Construction: multiparty cases involving the impact of construction activity on neighboring buildings and matters involving the quality of construction; mechanic's liens
- Court of Appeals: mediated cases for the District of Columbia Court of Appeals and cases remanded from the D.C. Court of Appeals
- Defamation: numerous claims against a variety of defendants including by a corporation against an NGO
- Employment: major whistleblower cases; claims against governments and law firms for retaliation, constructive termination, and wrongful discharge alleging sex, race, and disability discrimination
- Government: eminent domain case concerning the D.C. baseball stadium with many landowners requiring more than 20 mediation sessions involving tens of millions of dollars; cases ranged from charter schools, to lease disputes, and the permissible population in the local jail; settled a sensitive 20-year-old case that was seemingly intractable
- Probate and Conservatorships: multi-party cases involving large families

- Professional Liability: legal malpractice claims; medical malpractice claims including misdiagnosis, failure to obtain informed consent, claim of negligence resulting in serious post-operative complications and/or death
- Real Estate:
 - Class action by several thousand tenants against a property manager
 - Hundreds of residential and commercial landlord tenant cases; commercial cases included major corporations involving millions of dollars
 - Complaint by tenant organizations against landlords and claims for wrongful eviction
 - Condominium conversion cases involving thirty to forty tenants who participated in the mediation
 - Quiet title, breach of agency, negligent settlement, specific performance, rescission, and foreclosure
 - Injunctions, declaratory relief, and constructive trust
 - Receiverships and partition actions
 - Tax and water lien claims
 - Division of property by co-habiting partners
- Torts: Wrongful death, serious automobile accidents, railroad liability, mold infestation, false arrest, battery, and other major negligence claims

Honors, Memberships, and Professional Activities

- Mediator, Courts of the District of Columbia and County of Santa Clara, California
- Arbitrator, California Superior Court
- Judge, Small Claims Court
- President, South Bay Chapter of the Lawyers Alliance for World Security (Formerly LANAC)
- Professional, award-winning speaker before national and international professional and legal organizations

Background and Education

- Mediator and Manager, District of Columbia Superior Court, Washington, D.C., 2002–2007
- Independent Consultant and Lecturer, Lviv, Ukraine, 2001–2002
- Regional Director for Central Asia, International Center for Not-for-Profit Law, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 2000-2001
- Adjudicator for the District of Columbia, Washington, D.C., 1998-2000
- Legal Consultant, Washington, D.C., 1997-1998
- Structured Settlement Specialist, Structured Benefits, Inc. (subsidiary of Aetna), Washington, D.C., 1995-1996
- Pro Tem Small Claims Court Judge, San Jose, CA, 1987-1995
- Attorney at Law, Solo Practitioner, San Jose, CA, 1981-1995
- Assistant Campaign Manager, San Diego, CA, 1980
- Vice President, Oppenheimer Industries, San Diego, CA, 1979-1980
- Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute's Intensive Course, 1993
- J.D., Northwestern School of Law, Lewis and Clark College, Portland, Oregon, 1979
- B.A., *with honors*, Rutgers University, Camden, NJ, 1973