PHYLLIS W. CHENG, ESQ.

Mediator

www.mediate.work

Phyllis W. Cheng, Esq. has excelled at every stage of her career. For nearly seven years, Ms. Cheng was Director of the Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH), the largest state civil rights agency in the United States. As Director, Ms. Cheng oversaw six and seven-figure settlements, including the largest settlements in DFEH history. She was also a Senior Appellate Court Attorney; a Deputy Attorney General with the Civil Rights Enforcement Section of the California Department of Justice; a partner with DLA Piper's employment practice; and a two-term Commissioner and Vice-Chair of the Fair Employment and Housing Commission.

Recognized as the 2012 Ronald M. George Public Lawyer of the Year, Ms. Cheng brings her unwavering work ethic and extensive experience to her dispute resolution practice. As a private mediator and as a panelist for the U.S. District Court and the California Court of Appeal, Ms. Cheng has settled significant matters in the areas of employment, including discrimination, harassment, and retaliation; wage and hour; class actions; civil rights; attorney's fees; housing discrimination; and public accommodations and disability access. For more information, including case summaries, please visit her website at www.mediate.work.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- Employment
- Wage & Hour
- Class Actions
- Civil Rights
- Government Entities
- Housing
- Public Accommodations & Disability Access
- Education
- Attorney's Fees
- Appeals

DISPUTE RESOLUTION EXPERIENCE

- Private Mediator (2016-Present)
- United States District Court, Central District of California, Mediation Panel (2016-Present)
- California Court of Appeal, Second Appellate District, Mediation Program (2016-Present)
- Certified Arbitrator, State Bar of California Committee on Mandatory Fee Arbitration; Los Angeles County Bar Association Dispute Resolution Services, Inc.; and National Council of Better Business Bureaus, Inc., (1994-1999)
- Settlement Officer, Los Angeles Superior and Municipal Courts (1998-1999)

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

- Partner, DLA Piper LLP (US) (2014-2016)
- Director, California Department of Fair Employment and Housing (2008-2014)
    - Appointed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, retained by Governor Jerry Brown, and unanimously confirmed by the Senate
- Of Counsel, Littler Mendelson, P.C. (2007-2008)
- Senior Appellate Court Attorney, California Court of Appeal, Second Appellate District (2003-2007)
- Deputy Attorney General, California Department of Justice (1999-2003)
    - Civil Rights Enforcement Section, Attorney General's Office

- Commissioner & Vice Chair, California Fair Employment and Housing Commission (1993-1999)
    - Appointed and reappointed by Governor Pete Wilson
- Attorney at Law, Solo Practice (1995-1999)
- Associate, Hadsell & Stormer, Inc. (1993-1995)

EDUCATION

- J.D., Southwestern University School of Law (1993)
- Ph.D. in Planning, University of Southern California (1987)
- M.Ed. & Teaching Credential, University of California Los Angeles (1976)
- B.A. in Painting, Sculpture, Graphic Arts, University of California Los Angeles (1974)

AWARDS

- 2012 Ronald M. George Public Lawyer of the Year, State Bar of California Public Law Section
- 1993 Annual CLE Essay Contest, American Law Institute American Bar Association
- 1992 Writing Competition, State Bar of California Labor & Employment Law Section
- 1992 Writing Competition, Workers' Compensation Defense Attorneys' Association

MEMBERSHIPS AND APPOINTMENTS

- State Bar of California
- United States District Court, Central, Eastern, Southern, and Northern Districts of California
- United States Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals
- Southern California Mediation Association (2016-2017)
- Private Counsel Panel (Criminal, Juvenile Delinquency and Dependency Appeals), California Court of Appeal, Second Appellate District (1994-1999)
- California Lawyers Association (formerly State Bar of California), Labor & Employment Law Section (2003-Present)

LANGUAGES

- Chinese (Cantonese, Shanghai, Mandarin dialects)

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

As a leading scholar in California employment law, Ms. Cheng has made over 500 keynote, panel, webinar, and other multimedia presentations to bar, business, human resources, employer, employee, housing, realtor, apartment, homeowner, condominium association, mediation, civil rights, education, private and public sector groups.

PUBLICATIONS

Ms. Cheng is a prolific writer and has been published numerous times in various law treatises, legal publications, and law journals. She is the Co-Editor of *California Fair Housing & Public Accommodations*, part of the Rutter Group California Civil Litigation Series, and Attorney Editor of several chapters of *Employment Litigation*, the Rutter Group California Practice Guide. For a complete list of her publications, please visit her website at www.mediate.work.