HONORABLE RICHARD J. MCADAMS (RET.)

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Hon. Richard J. McAdams (Ret.) joined JAMS after his retirement from the Court of Appeal, Sixth Appellate District. Justice McAdams applies over 40 years of cumulative legal knowledge and experience in his approach to ADR. His exceptional 34-year judicial career began in 1977, hearing civil and small claims matters on the Santa Cruz County Municipal Court, where he was appointed Presiding Judge on four separate occasions. Prior to his election to the Superior Court in 1998, Justice McAdams was assigned full-time to the Superior Court family law calendar from 1994-1998. Thereafter, he handled the probate and civil department calendars for an additional five years in Superior Court. In 2003, Justice McAdams was elevated to the Sixth District Court of Appeal, where he served over seven years before joining JAMS.

In addition to his court duties, Justice McAdams is well regarded as one of the most notable and accomplished judges on California's Appellate bench for his engagement and leadership in judicial education and administration throughout his career.

Justice McAdams' appellate expertise in addressing, developing, and shaping uncharted law, such as in environmental and land-use disputes involving governmental agencies and regulations, combined with his research, writing, and managerial skills make him well-suited for arbitrations. His intellectual curiosity and creativity, as well as his compassionate demeanor and humane approach to dispute resolution, will benefit parties in highly emotional and contentious mediations, such as family law, personal injury, and elder care disputes.

ADR Experience and Qualifications
●Mediated and resolved hundreds of civil, probate, and family law cases during his 26 years in the Superior Court of Santa Cruz County; instrumental in the creation of the court's judicial mediation program; early leader in ADR judicial education programs
●Championed the benefits of mediation after joining the appellate bench, where he played a significant role in creating the Sixth District Mediation Program; personally mediated cases with pending appeals
●Has served as a mediator, arbitrator, or referee/special master in scores of cases in a wide variety of practice areas
●Founded the Senior Citizens Legal Services, a nationally recognized non-profit law office specializing in elder law and seniors' issues, which has become a model project for similar services around the country

Representative Matters

●Appellate Review ●Business/Commercial/Trade Secrets ●Church/Religious Institutions ●Construction ●Consumer Law ●Education/Schools ●Employment ●Environmental/Land Use ●Estates/Probate/Trusts ●Family Law ●Government/Public Entities ●Health ●Personal Injury/Torts ●Professional Liability ●Real Property

Background and Education

●Appellate Justice, Sixth District Court of Appeal, 2003-2011
●Superior Court Judge, Santa Cruz County, 1998-2003
●Municipal Court Judge, Santa Cruz County, 1977-1998
●Assigned to Superior Court, 1994-1998
●Presiding Judge, 1980, 1984, 1987, and 1990
●Founding Partner, Fox McAdams and Popin, 1974-1977
●Solo practice, 1973
●Attorney, Legal Aid Society of Santa Cruz, 1970-1973
●Acting Director, 1973
●Attorney, Jarvis, Miller and Stender, 1969-1970
●J.D., Hastings College of Law, 1968
●B.A., University of California, Berkeley, 1965