STEPHEN H. SULMEYER, J.D., Ph.D.

JAMS
Telephone: (415) 774-2656
Website: https://www.jamsadr.com/sulmeyer/

STEPHEN H. SULMEYER, J.D., Ph.D. is a mediator and arbitrator with JAMS in San Francisco. With his dual background in law and psychology Dr. Sulmeyer is uniquely situated to resolve complex and high-conflict disputes in a wide range of subject areas, including business/commercial, intellectual property, employment, discrimination, partnerships, family and divorce, probate and elder, family businesses, personal injury, and community matters, and has a special affinity for cases involving personal and professional relationships.

As a mediator, Dr. Sulmeyer is a firm believer in thorough preparation on the part of all involved. He frequently conducts pre-mediation meetings with each side, and jointly with counsel, to narrow the issues, identity potential roadblocks, and ensure that parties and counsel come to the mediation session fully prepared. In order to intelligently assess risk and have a productive mediation, Dr. Sulmeyer strives to help the parties identify and exchange hard evidence, so that each party's positions are supported by objective data, rather than surmise, argument or opinion. He also endeavors to identify the "human" contributions to the dispute that are not mentioned in the pleadings, such as clashing personalities, misattributions of intent, hurt feelings, and so forth. Dr. Sulmeyer has found over decades of experience that getting to the heart of what a given dispute is really about makes reaching a mutually acceptable settlement much easier, resulting in greater satisfaction with the process and the result. He uses a wide range of directive and facilitative interventions, including case evaluation, decision trees, reality-testing, and assessment of litigation risks and transaction costs, as appropriate.

Dr. Sulmeyer has published widely on a variety of dispute resolution topics in various academic and professional journals, and continues to teach dispute resolution at law schools and professional conferences in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom and Europe, both in person and in online webinars and podcasts. He is the co-founder of the Marin Superior Court's interdisciplinary settlement conference program, in which mental health professionals and lawyers team up to assist judges in settling custody and other cases. He is also the founder and past president of Integrative Mediation Bay Area, a group that teams up mental health professionals and attorneys in a conjoint mediation model. Dr. Sulmeyer received his undergraduate and law degrees from Stanford University, and his Ph.D. from the Institute of Transpersonal Psychology (now Sophia University), in Palo Alto, California, where he taught as a member of the adjunct faculty.