

Hon. John R. Melcher

Judge John Melcher is a Credentialed Advanced Mediator and Internationally Credentialed Arbitrator and is a principle in the Clear Creek Mediation Center. He serves as an Associate Judge for the Galveston County Magistrate Court and the Hitchcock Municipal Court.

Melcher specializes in dispute resolution for marriage and family matters, medical claims, construction and estate disposition. He serves Texas and Virginia as an Advanced Mediator/Arbitrator in Medical Insurance disputes.

His commitment to alternative dispute resolution relies on a firm belief in the power of respectful communication. His philosophy - ***All disputes can be resolved through reasonable discourse, conducted in good faith, with skilled motivators in a safe and comfortable environment.*** He works with the Harris County Dispute Resolution Center, the Galveston County Association of Mediators and the Galveston County Office of Court Administration, among others.

Melcher's background in law enforcement, EMS, aviation (police paramedic pilot) and non-profit leadership is the bedrock of his capacity for guiding parties to meaningful solutions. His tenure as the Executive Director - CEO of the Greater Harris County 9-1-1 Emergency Network served over eight million citizens in the Houston metropolitan area. He also served as Board Member and President of the National Emergency Number Association, an 18,000-member association of emergency communication and first responder professionals.

For over 30 years Melcher has worked with state and federal regulatory agencies and legislatures advocating for the emergency response community. His team was pivotal in resolving disparate philosophies in order to facilitate expanded radio spectrum (frequencies) for Public Safety, resulting in the creation of the nationwide network for first responders now known as FirstNet™.

Melcher directed the first integration of wireless location technology into the public telephone network, allowing 9-1-1 callers using cellular phones to be pinpointed. This technology is now deployed in 9-1-1 and personal safety systems throughout the world. He holds patents in emergency communications and serves as an expert witness in intellectual property and civil litigation. As a founding member of the Houston Emergency Center Executive Board he was integral in its creation and the consolidation of emergency communications for the City of Houston, among others throughout the country.

Melcher has provided testimony to numerous state legislative and regulatory bodies, the US House of Representatives, the US Senate and numerous federal agencies. He currently volunteers as a mission transport pilot and serves as director of government affairs for the Texas Wing of the Civil Air Patrol (US Air Force Auxiliary) and works with Clear Creek Community Church in the technical arts ministry. Judge Melcher is a published author, guest lecturer and certified motivational speaker.