ROSS W. STODDARD, III
ATTORNEY - MEDIATOR
Summary Biography

Ross W. Stoddard, III is an attorney-mediator who was born in 1950 and raised in Denison, Texas. His father is an investor and horseman, whose father was a lawyer who practiced law in Denison, Texas for 58 years. Ross' mother and grandmothers managed their respective households and child-rearing challenges. Ross and his wife live in Coppell, Texas, awaiting to be adopted by their next rescue Golden Retriever. His two step-sons have left the nest to pursue their respective careers in New York City and Naples, Florida. Ross and his wife have six grandchildren.

Education. In 1972, Ross received his Bachelor of Business Administration, with honors, from Southern Methodist University ("SMU") in Dallas, Texas. In 1975, he received his Doctor of Jurisprudence from the University of Texas School of Law. In 1989, Ross began his formal training as a professional mediator through the initial mediation training program of the Dallas Bar Association ("DBA").

Government Service. Ross served for four years (1976-1980) in the United States Air Force, as law clerk for the federal Administrative Judges of the Armed Services Board of Contract Appeals in Washington, D.C., and as staff attorney for the U.S. Contracting Center in San Antonio, Texas.

Private Law Practice. After becoming licensed in 1975, Ross practiced law in the Dallas, Texas area as a sole practitioner and with associate lawyers in his firm. His experience as a lawyer is in both litigation and transactions, in a broad range of areas of civil law, including business, contracts, partnerships, corporations, joint ventures, investments, commercial, real estate, personal injury and consumer protection. He also participated in several mediation sessions as an advocate on behalf of his clients. Since 1995, he has maintained an A-V Preeminent rating from Martindale-Hubbell.

Financial & Investment Advisor Practice. In the mid-1980's, in addition to his law practice, Ross served as chairman of Focus Financial Consultants, Inc., which provided financial and investment advice, primarily to high-net worth professionals/entrepreneurs. During that time, he was a member of the International Association for Financial Planning.

Mediation Practice and Faculty Service. Since 1989, Ross has developed and maintained a full-time mediation practice, having conducted 5,000+ mediations, involving $28+ billion in aggregate claims in a wide variety of matters. His practice primarily involves serving as mediator of cases in civil litigation, at the request of counsel, state and federal courts, and prior participants. He also serves as mediator in pre-litigation disputes and business negotiations. Ross has served on the faculty of the Basic and Advanced Mediation Training Programs sponsored by the American Bar Assoc. ("ABA"), American Academy of Attorney-Mediators, Inc. ("THE ACADEMY"), Assoc. of Attorney-Mediators ("AAM "), Indiana and Arkansas Bar Associations, DBA, and Attorney-Mediator Institute ("AMI"). He was a co-founder, director and faculty member of THE ACADEMY. Ross has participated in the training of over 1,500 attorneys, mediators and judges throughout the U.S. and Canada, and over 500 hours of courses in mediation and negotiation. He authored the chapter on the use of ADR in tort disputes in *The Litigator's Handbook*, published by the ABA Section of Litigation. Ross designed and served as faculty for the *Effective Negotiations - Strategies, Tactics and Ethics* course (11 years) and the *Global Business Environments* course (4 years) in the SMU Cox Executive MBA Program. He also taught the *Negotiations* course for the Independent Petroleum Association of America.

Court Admissions. Ross is licensed to practice law before the U.S. Supreme Court; U.S. Courts of Appeal for the 5th, 11th, D.C, and Federal (f/k/a the Court of Customs & Patent Appeals and the Court of Claims) Circuits and the Armed Forces (f/k/a U.S. Court of Military Appeals); U.S. Court of Federal Claims; U.S. Court of International Trade; U.S. Tax Court; all U.S. District Courts of Texas; and the Texas Supreme Court and all state courts of Texas.

Professional Associations & Activities. Ross was a charter director and officer of AAM and has served on the ADR Section Council of the State Bar of Texas ("SBOT"). He is or has been a member of the Texas Assoc. of Mediators ("TAM"), the Society of Professionals for Dispute Resolution ("SPIDR") and the ADR Sections of the ABA, SBOT, DBA and Tarrant County Bar Assoc. Ross previously served as Chair of the ADR Committee of the ABA Torts & Insurance Practice Section's Commercial Torts Committee. He has spoken on mediation/negotiation practices at numerous bar association continuing legal education seminars, at annual and regional meetings of the ABA, AAM, DBA, SPIDR, TAM, Professional Mediation Institute ("PMI"), Texas Assoc. for Court Administration, Texas Judicial College, World Forum of Mediation Centres, as well as at various law firms and law schools. Ross is a Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation, College of the State Bar of Texas, Dallas Bar Foundation, and Tarrant County Bar Foundation. He has served on the Exec. Committee of the Board of Directors of the SMU Alumni Association and is a member of the Texas Center for Legal Ethics. Ross also is a Credentialed Distinguished Mediator in the Texas Mediator Credentialing Association and has served on the Board of PMI.

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