



Ben Cunningham

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Ben is a founding Member of the Alternative Dispute Resolution ("ADR") firm, Galton, Cunningham & Bourgeois, P.L.L.C. and The Lakeside Mediation Center. During his twenty five year career as a mediator and trial counsel representing plaintiffs and defendants, Ben has earned the reputation as a skilled lawyer and highly effective mediator/ negotiator. Ben has conducted over 2000 mediations, ranging from small disputes to large, complex multi-party disputes, nationally and internationally. Ben is available to provide services as a mediator and settlement counsel throughout Texas and the United States. In addition to his hands-on experience as a mediator, Ben is also a trainer of mediators, an Adjunct Professor of ADR, and for a number of years has served on the Advisory Board for Graduate ADR Programs at Texas State University, and as a Director of the Austin Dispute Resolution Center.

A member of the bar since 1988, Ben began his legal career with the Austin firm of Bankston, Wright & Greenhill, P.C. as a trial attorney in the firm's commercial litigation and insurance defense sections. With Eric Galton, in 1988 Ben established the first formal ADR section in a Texas law firm. From 1991 to 1996, Ben was of counsel with the litigation firm of George, Donaldson & Ford, L.L.P., practicing in the areas of complex commercial litigation, tort, media, constitutional, insurance, real estate, and personal injury litigation and ADR. In 1996, Ben joined the firm of George & Donaldson, L.L.P. as a partner working exclusively on a broad range of complex litigation matters. In 2000, Ben resigned his law firm partnership to form the ADR firm of Galton, Cunningham & Bourgeois, P.L.L.C. with Eric Galton and Gregory T. Bourgeois. Ben maintained an Of-Counsel relationship with the firm of George & Brothers, L.L.P., representing a limited number of clients in litigation and dispute resolution matters. In early 2008, Ben resigned his Of-Counsel position to concentrate his practice to the arena of mediation, and representing clients as Settlement Counsel in selected cases. As an attorney, Ben has represented corporations, national and international media companies, governmental bodies, small businesses and individuals in the arenas of civil litigation, arbitration, administrative law, and ADR. As a mediator, Ben has mediated almost every conceivable dispute, and is known for his creative and innovative approaches to dispute resolution. During the past quarter century of mediating, Ben has gained a reputation as a mediator who can tackle the complex or "garden-variety" disputes with equal enthusiasm and success, and is known as a mediator who can effect a settlement in difficult cases.

ADR PRACTICE AREAS

All civil disputes, including commercial, business, tort, contract, employment, personal injury, technology, insurance, intellectual property, consumer/DTPA, professional liability/malpractice, entertainment, defamation, construction/real estate, environmental, probate, products liability, governmental entities, Sec. 1983 and civil rights, international commercial disputes, telecommunications, oil and gas, anti-trust, lender liability, bankruptcy, discrimination, First Amendment, media, landlord-tenant, and internal organizational disputes. Additionally, Ben is available as a settlement consultant and settlement counsel for complex disputes.

MEDIATOR QUALIFICATIONS

- AV-Preeminent TM, Martindale-Hubbe
- Credentialed – Distinguished Mediator, Texas Mediator Credentialing Association
- Licensed since 1988
- Fellow, Texas Bar Foundation
- Founding Member, Lakeside Mediation Center

- Member and former Director: Texas Association of Mediators
- Frequent ADR Instructor, University of Texas Center for Public Policy and Dispute Resolution
- Member, Advisory Board for ADR Graduate Programs, Texas State University
- Adjunct Mediation Professor, Texas State University, ABA accredited program
- Member, Association of Attorney Mediators
- Approved Federal Court Mediator; U.S. District Court
- American Jurisprudence Award, ADR
- Texas Lawyers and Accountants for the Arts Advanced Mediation Training
- United States Postal System REDRESS Advanced mediation training, 1999
- Numerous speaking engagements, Advanced Mediation and Negotiation Advocacy presentations
- Lecturer and writer on Ethics in Mediation
- Co-Producer/Trainer: Preparing Clients for Mediation Video
- Graduate of South Texas College of Law and The University of The State of New York