

## A Word About Meca L. Walker

After serving almost 10 years as a family law judge, my professional focus is a mediation and arbitration practice designed to help parties resolve conflicts in Harris County, Texas and surrounding areas.

I am a past President for the Texas Bar College, which is a statewide honorary society of lawyers and judges who obtain at least double the continued legal education required by the State Bar of Texas. My continued legal education and experience on both sides of the bench, give me a unique ability to help you settle your case.

## A Word about Walker ADR Services

### Mediation

The goal of Walker ADR is to save you time, money, and stress. My mediation process uses a negotiation technique that is designed to search out an acceptable compromise that resolves the contested issues. This process allows me to work creatively in assisting parties in a search for the common ground. Texas law protects mediation as a **confidential** process so that settlement discussions may not be disclosed to the Court if a settlement is not reached therefore, neither the mediator nor the mediator's notes are subject to subpoena if a case is not resolved.

The mediator serves as a neutral and objective professional whose first goal is to define the areas of conflict. As a general rule, the parties remain in separate rooms as the mediator goes back and forth, discussing and reporting viable options, while the parties work to achieve an agreement. By mutual consent, the parties may elect to work in joint session for part or all of the process. Once settlement is reached, the mediator drafts the agreement in correct form so that it is **binding** on all parties. The attorneys for the parties will then take the draft that has been prepared by the mediator and prepare a formal Order to be signed by the Court.

### Arbitration

Walker ADR offers arbitration as another settlement format. Under Texas law parties and their attorneys may agree to submit all matters in controversy to **binding** arbitration rather than going to trial before a judge or jury. The parties and their attorneys present the case to the Arbitrator who makes the final decision on all unresolved issues. Arbitration may be formal, in compliance with the Texas Rules of Evidence and Civil Procedure or may be informal depending on the preference of the parties involved. No matter if you choose Arbitration or Mediation, Walker ADR's goal is to reach a fair and workable solution for all parties.