



TRICIA SCHAFER

Tricia Schafer Dispute Resolution PLLC
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Tricia is a full-time neutral and former litigator with 30 years of experience involving all aspects of commercial controversies. She is known for connecting people and concepts to create outcomes that transcend the sum of their parts. Her tenacity, curiosity, and enthusiasm, combined with strategic preparation and critical analysis, engage stakeholders and promote durable resolutions. Tricia mediates and arbitrates cases nationwide, both privately and through the American Arbitration Association.

RECENT REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

Business and Partnership Dissolution

- Medical practice dissolutions, windups, and sales
- Franchise disputes
- Family business matters, including estate administration
- Professional negligence
- Intellectual property
- Interpleader actions involving escrowed funds and/or property

Healthcare and Professional Services

- Payor/Provider
- Pharmaceuticals/PBMs
- Drug/Alcohol rehabilitation center compliance
- Equipment/supplier contracts

Employment and Labor

- Wage/hour
- Discrimination
- Director/officer conduct

Real Estate and Energy

- Real estate development/contract disputes
- Development agreements (utilities, renewable energy)
- Liquidation/receivership
- Homeowner association disputes with vendors, residents, and contractors

Tribal and Environmental

- Tribal/Municipal negotiations regarding utilities, right-of-way, law enforcement, and resources
- Wildlife/natural resource preservation and coexistence with development

EXPERIENCE

Tricia Schafer Dispute Resolution PLLC – Scottsdale, AZ

Full-time Mediator and Arbitrator, 2025-present

Mediation and arbitration of commercial controversies, including real estate, renewable energy, tribal, environmental, healthcare, labor/employment, probate, and business dissolution.

Vitality Law PLLC – Scottsdale, AZ

Falbe Law PLLC – Scottsdale, AZ

Attorney, Mediator, Arbitrator, 2011-2024 (firm name changed in 2017)

Advocacy in litigation, mediation, and arbitration with an emphasis on real estate, finance, and renewable energy. Complementary ADR practice commenced in 2022, with appointments to the American Arbitration Association National Roster of Arbitrators and Mediators and as a Judge *Pro Tempore* on the Maricopa County Superior Court (civil/probate).

Mariscal, Weeks, McIntyre & Friedlander, P.A. – Phoenix, AZ

Allen, Price, Padden & Sanders PC – Phoenix, AZ

Associate Attorney, 2004-2011 (firms merged in 2005)

Commercial and employment advocacy in state and federal court, mediations, and arbitrations. Appointed as the firm's first in-house electronic discovery resource during the nascent stages of metadata preservation and integrity.

Arizona Court of Appeals Division One – Phoenix, AZ

Staff Attorney, 2003

Drafted opinions and memorandum decisions with and for Arizona's appellate judges.

Frazer, Ryan, Goldberg, Arnold & Gittler LLP – Phoenix, AZ

Coppersmith Gordon Schermer Owens & Nelson PLC – Phoenix, AZ

Of Counsel, 1998-2002 (practice group changed firms in early 2002)

Defended businesses in employment and commercial disputes in litigation, mediation, and arbitration. counseled employers on preventive measures, including trainings/handbooks.

Public Employees Federation, AFL-CIO – Albany, NY

Staff Attorney, 1995-1997

Advocated in arbitrations, mediations, as well as judicial administrative proceedings statewide. Analyzed legislation pertaining to state and federal labor/employment laws.

EDUCATION

- Georgetown University Law Center – Juris Doctor, 1994
- University of California, Berkeley – Bachelor of Arts in Economics (Honors), 1991

BAR ADMISSIONS

- Arizona (1998-present)
- Pennsylvania (2024-present)
- New York (1995-2003; resigned in good standing)

ADR AFFILIATIONS AND CERTIFICATIONS

- American Arbitration Association – National Roster of Arbitrators and Mediators
- Maricopa County Superior Court, Judge *Pro Tempore*, Civil and Probate
- Arizona Association of REALTORS® Buyer-Seller Dispute Resolution Roster
- Pepperdine University – Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution
- American Institute of Mediation
- Center for Conflict Resolution

RECENT PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

Presenter, "Do the Math: How Numerical Literacy Can Make or Break Your Mediation," State Bar of Arizona, scheduled for 6/2026

Co-Chair and Presenter, State Bar of Arizona Real Property Section multi-day continuing education program in Coronado, CA, 7/2023 and scheduled for 7/2026

Guest Lecturer on Mediation, Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law, Arizona State University, Civil Litigation Experience courses, 3/2025 and scheduled for 3/2026

Presenter, "From Adversaries to Agreement: Transforming Real Estate Controversies Through Mediation," State Bar of Arizona, 9/2025

Presenter, "Feeling Heard: Conflict Resolution in Vehicle Noise Disputes," Acoustical Society of America, 11/2024

Tricia Schafer and Kent D.B. Sinclair, "Generative AI for Real Estate Lawyers," State Bar of Arizona publication, 7/2023

Panelist, "A Case Study of the Legal, Administrative, and Legislative Aspects of Veterinary Care," Horace Rumpole Inn of Court, 3/2023

Moderator, "What Every Business Lawyer Should Know about Business Insurance," Maricopa County Bar Association, 12/2021

Panelist, "Complex Civil Litigation and Tier 3 Cases in Commercial Court," Maricopa County Bar Association, 10/2021

Co-Author, ABA Dispute Resolution Section survey of court-sponsored ADR, 10/2021