



Mediation Law Group, Inc.™
1.866.403.8690

Robert L. Toolen, Esq.
Mediator, Arbitrator, Trainer

Mr. Toolen is a core strategic partner in Mediation Law Group™ as a mediator and arbitrator while maintaining an active litigation practice in which he has been engaged since 1974. As a mediator and arbitrator, Mr. Toolen has assisted litigants in resolving hundreds of cases, relying upon his extensive experience as a litigator to effectively resolve disputes, both in the private and court-sponsored settings.



EXPERIENCE

With over 32 years of litigation experience, Mr. Toolen brings expertise and insight as a seasoned litigator in the areas of personal injury, business tort, labor, professional malpractice, insurance and bad faith, and church related law, into the mediation and arbitration setting. A well recognized expert in the area of church law, he has keen skills in resolving these often complex and difficult cases.

Mr. Toolen received his dispute resolution training through the Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution at Pepperdine University School of Law. He has served as an arbitrator for the Orange County Superior Court since 1979, and served five years on the Uninsured Motorist Arbitration Panel for the American Arbitration Association. He has also served as a Judge Pro Tem for the Orange County Superior Court Civil Panel and is currently an active panel member for the Los Angeles County Superior Court Alternate Dispute Resolution program.

A senior partner with the firm of Cooksey, Toolen, Gage, Duffy & Woog in Costa Mesa, California, Mr. Toolen heads a litigation department covering a broad range of civil trial practice. In addition to his 30+ years of civil litigation experience, Mr. Toolen holds a Cambridge Certificate in Risk Management for churches

and schools, and provides counsel to churches and non-profits on issues of risk management. He has also served as lecturer to the insurance industry on church-related and First Amendment issues. He also authored the notable appeal in *Jeffrey E. v. Central Baptist Church*, (1988) 197 Cal.App.3d 718, an oft-cited case in the area of church responsibility for actions of church employees and volunteers.

MEMBERSHIPS/AFFILIATIONS

Mr. Toolen is a member of the Orange County Bar Association, the Association of Business Trial Lawyers, American Board of Trial Advocates, the Southern California Mediation Association, and the Christian Management Association.

ARTICLES

The Good Steward's Toolbox: Five Essentials to Prevent and Protect Against Church and School Conflict. Church Executive, October, 2006.

The People Business Needs People Strategies. Church Executive, June, 2006.

EDUCATION: • J.D., Southwestern University School of Law, 1974 • Cambridge Certificate in Risk Management for Schools and Churches, 2000 • Mediation/Arbitration Certification (40 hours) Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution, Pepperdine University School of Law, 2004 • B.A., University of California at Los Angeles, 1970