

Mr. Michael Lapin's Profile

*"The bottom line in evaluating a mediator is his ability to make the problem go away.
Mike makes the problems go away."*

Thomas R. Malcolm, Partner in Charge, Jones Day, Irvine CA

Michael L. Lapin, Esq. is a highly qualified and experienced lawyer, businessman, and neutral. He has more than 30 years experience with legal issues and their application to real estate and land use issues. He is recognized as an accomplished, focused, Senior-Level Executive and lawyer with comprehensive experience in:

- Business Development
- Property Management
- Consulting
- Distressed Property Workouts
- Financial Restructuring
- Military Base Conversion
- Operations / Administrator
- Program Management
- Project Management
- Property Development
- Retail / Commercial Properties
- Turnaround / Re-engineering

He has settled hundreds of disputes, and his interpersonal and analytical skills, in conjunction with his creativity, have made him a highly-respected neutral who helps parties reach mutually agreeable settlements.

Mr. Lapin has practiced law since he was admitted to the Bar in 1963. Shortly thereafter he went on active duty in the United States Army and served as an Officer in the Judge Advocate General's Corps. Mr. Lapin then practiced law in a Chicago law firm from 1967 until 1970. Moving to California in 1970, he worked in a prestigious San Diego firm for the next three years. In 1973 he became a principal in a real estate trust, which led to further real estate developments. In 1982 he became a partner in a Los Angeles based law firm. While with the firm he continued to develop various retail real estate projects. Mr. Lapin founded his own law firm with two other individuals in 1995 which specialized in real estate and corporate practice.

In Spring of 1999 Mr. Lapin was retained by the County of Orange as Program Manager for MCAS El Toro Master Development Program, wherein he oversaw the management of the approximately \$10million annual budget allocated to the Program Office. As an Owner/Manager/Partner, Mr. Lapin formed various private real estate organizations throughout Northern and Southern California to acquire, turnaround and operate various retail and commercial properties with a total lease area of 1.5 million square feet. His hands-on involvement included promoting community involvement and ensured positive political relations through direct involvement with government officials (elected and appointed), various Chambers of Commerce, Convention Center Bureaus, Advisory Committees, and Task Forces.

Mr. Lapin was appointed a member for 12 years and was twice elected Chairman of the Orange County Airport Commission. He was also appointed a member for 3 years to the Orange County Public Finance Advisory Committee, and was elected its Chairman in 1996.

Mr. Lapin has negotiated with such agencies as the Department of Defense, Navy, Marine Corps, FAA, and HUD. He has been certified as a mediator by the Los Angeles County Bar Association, Dispute Resolution Services, and by the Orange County Fair Housing Council. Mr. Lapin has mediated dozens of cases helping to secure their 80%-90% success rate in mediations. He is a member of the Southern California Mediation Association, the Los Angeles County and Orange County Bar Associations as well as the American Bar Association's Dispute Resolution Section.