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Vida Tarassoly, Ph.D., P.E., S.E., Esq.

Mediator

Dr. Vida Tarassoly is one of the few Neutrals in the United States who is an attorney/registered civil and structural engineer/and licensed contractor. She brings over 30 years of hands-on engineering and construction experience, litigation, and dispute resolution of complex engineering and construction disputes.

She holds a Ph.D. in structural engineering from the University of Southern California. Because of her highly technical background, she is uniquely qualified to provide evaluative mediation, in which she simultaneously assesses the technical and legal strengths of the parties' claims and renders an expert opinion, to achieve reasonable settlements. Dr. Tarassoly is bicultural, American-Middle Eastern, and fluent in Farsi.

Practice Areas

- Construction Defects
- Construction Contracts
- Delay Analysis
- Professional Liability
- Environmental Law

Conflict Resolution Experience

- Resolved a dispute among homeowners, Caltrans, and the City of Palo Alto over excessive noises due to after-hours City's construction activities.
- Resolved dispute about foundation settlement between a homeowner and a developer in an SB800 claim for structural defects including foundation settlement.
- Resolved dispute between a disadvantaged business enterprise subcontractor, a hospital, and a design-build prime contractor in a multi-party dispute resolution.
- Resolved dispute between a contractor and multi-residential owner pertaining to schedule delays and construction defects of a soft-story seismic retrofit project.
- In collaboration with the Pepperdine Strauss institute for Dispute Resolution, mediated disputes between residents of a Malibu community and a mutual water company pertaining to installation of a new water supply line.

Education & Training

- **The University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California**
- Ph.D. 2004, Structural Engineering
Dissertation subject: Application of viscous dampers to structures within near-fault zones
- M.S., 1983, Civil Engineering
Master's thesis: Development of plane strain and stress models for finite element analysis programs
- B.S., 1980, Civil Engineering
Magna Cum Laude
- **Pacific Coast University, School of Law, Long Beach, California**
J.D., 2014
- **American Arbitration Association**
Mediation Training, 2012
- **Orange County Human Relations**
Mediation Training, 2010

Organizations & Achievements

- Caltrans Dispute Resolution Panel
- Orange County Bar Association, Structural Engineers Association of Southern California
- Dispute Resolution Foundation

Dr. Tarassoly is available throughout California, nationally, and internationally.