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Hon. Gretchen W. Taylor

Los Angeles County Superior Court Commissioner, Retired

Commissioner Taylor, a Family Law Judge for 12 years, now serves as a mediator, co-mediator, arbitrator, private judge, special master, discovery referee and parent plan coordinator. Known for her uncommon ease with complex property, support, and parenting issues, Commissioner Taylor is available to assist high conflict individuals and families utilizing an Understanding-Based Approach to mediation. She is also a founding member of the Family Co-Mediation Services ARC Team, which pairs legal experts with mental health specialists and forensic accountants in order to help solve the broad range of problems that divorce and family conflict include through the synchronicity of inter-disciplinary strategies. She greatly enjoys working with parties who have legal counsel, and with unrepresented parties as well.

Practice Areas

Family Law matters of all types, including Divorce, Domestic Partnerships, Negotiated High-Asset Prenuptial and Postnuptial Agreements, Paternity, Custody and Visitation, and Family Law Malpractice and Fee Disputes.

Conflict Resolution Experience

Commissioner Taylor presided over hundreds of trials and settled thousands of Family Law disputes during her 12 years on the Family Law Bench. Greatly appreciated for her casual yet no-nonsense approach to resolving disputes as a bench officer, she excelled in analyzing complex cases and crafting road maps to resolution. Lawyers and clients knew that she could be trusted to understand sophisticated accounting issues and to offer inventive and satisfying parenting plans in the most challenging of circumstances.

Prior to her tenure on the Los Angeles Superior Court, Commissioner Taylor was appointed to the Riverside Superior Court, where she brought about significant improvement and helped to reorganize the Desert Branch Family Law Departments. She was a successful Beverly Hills Family Law attorney for 18 years before serving on the bench. She came to the mediation community early on, and was a pioneer in advocating alternative dispute resolution methods. She began her career in the Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services, where she was dedicated to helping families and children in very difficult situations.

Today Commissioner Taylor views her role a little differently than when she was a jurist. She believes that mediation and co-mediation is grounded in the needs and interests of separating couples, and that with the assistance of their attorneys the parties are always in the best position to decide their own solutions.

She recognizes that people in conflict tend to get stuck, and so patiently and adeptly facilitates discussions that lead people beyond impasse.

Organizations & Achievements

- Judicial Mentor and Educator to Fellow California Jurists
- Recipient of The 2008 Spirit of CEB Award for Service to Family Law Education
- Member/former member: Family Law Committee and Alternate Dispute Resolution Committee, Los Angeles Superior Court; American Inns of Court, Family Law Inn of Court; numerous other bar and judicial associations and Family Law organizations
- Frequent faculty member and speaker on Family Law topics to organizations throughout California
- Author of articles on Family Law for Cal CEB (2005, 2008) and Receivership News (2005); Editorial Board Member, Journal of Child Custody.
- California Certified Family Law Specialist (CFLS)

Education & Training

- Mediation Training: The Center for Understanding in Conflict (2010-present); Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution, Pepperdine University (2008)
- J.D., 1979, Southwestern University School of Law,
- B.A., 1966, Marymount College, Palos Verdes, CA
- Fluent in Spanish

Commissioner Taylor is available throughout California.