



JOINING THE JUDICATE WEST FAMILY

EDITED BY ROBERT N. DOBBINS

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From our recent sessions together over the past few months, many of you know that I have been given the privilege and honor of being invited to join and **I have joined** the distinguished panel of neutrals at **Judicate West**. As I learned first hand, the “barrier to entry is huge” given the extensive scrutiny of prospective panelists by the Judicate management prior to the invitation to come aboard.

In some ways it was not an easy decision. I have enjoyed building (with your help) my practice and most of the “Mr. Toad’s Wild Ride” of owning my own business. Yet, it seemed a perfect confluence of need, desire and opportunity, making the decision to become part of the Judicate West Family a seamless and natural one.

My relationship with Judicate goes back to my beginning days as a neutral. **Var and Alan** recall that early on “Robert was around our organization for quite some time shadowing one of our top neutrals, Judge William Sheffield, as part of Robert’s dispute resolution Masters Degree and LL.M. program at Pepperdine.” As time went on, they explain, “we liked what we were hearing about Robert from our clients – his hard work and process knowledge expertise enabled him to build a successful practice and **we wanted him here with us.**”



INFRASTRUCTURE

The proverbial one-horse-ranch entrepreneurship brings many

challenges. Among them is how to keep accessible to the life-blood of the operation: clients. As my mediation practice grew, even with technology frequently I could not get back with you until late in the evening or the following day of your contact. You were all patient and understanding; *twas I* who was troubled by the missed phone calls or delayed email replies.



Judicate West provided the remedy: an established infrastructure of **Case Managers** who are available to you. Our team of highly professional case managers efficiently handles all of your convening needs and is only a phone call/email away.

SAME MEDIATOR, STRONGER BASE

With this evolution, you get the same Mediator (that would be me) with a stronger base. Of course I will still be accessible to you directly; what makes it nice for all of us: you will not have to wait until you can reach me to get things on calendar. Also, with Judicate, we have the all-important “neutral location” with five Southern California offices and a San Francisco-based Northern California presence.

I am grateful to all of you for helping me reach the level of accomplishment so that Var and Alan invited me aboard. I look forward to the continued growth of our relationship as I help you build bridges between disputes and their resolution.

