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Signature Resolution Welcomes Hon. Michael S. Berg (Ret.) to Our Panel of Neutrals

Former criminal defense attorney and U.S. Magistrate Judge brings a people-first approach and a clear read on risk to complex civil disputes.

SAN DIEGO CA (November, 9 2026) — Signature Resolution is proud to announce that Hon. Michael S. Berg (Ret.) has joined our panel of neutrals, where he will mediate and arbitrate complex civil disputes. Judge Berg brings parties a grounded sense of where their case is headed, a genuine investment in the people at the table, and the persistence to stay with a negotiation until it reaches resolution.

Judge Berg spent more than three decades as a criminal defense attorney, leading his own practice and representing clients across nearly every category of criminal matter. During that time, he also served as a Supervising Staff Attorney for the County of San Diego's Alternate Defense Counsel and as a Judge Pro Tem in the San Diego Superior Court, and he spent more than two decades as a fee arbitrator for the State Bar of California and the San Diego County Bar Association. In 2018, he was appointed a United States Magistrate Judge for the Southern District of California, where he oversaw civil case management and discovery, handled matters from multi-district litigation to individual consumer claims, and conducted a substantial calendar of settlement conferences.

At the table, Judge Berg leads with warmth and attentiveness. He takes time to know each party before turning to the dispute, which puts newcomers to formal proceedings at ease and builds the trust that makes difficult conversations possible. He gives parties a direct, realistic view of their case, treats a stalled session as part of the process rather than a setback, and returns to the work as often as needed.

"Judge Berg combines a clear sense of what a case is worth with a real gift for connecting with people," said Dario Higuchi, founder and Chief Executive Officer of Signature Resolution. "We are proud to welcome him to our panel."

Judge Berg was named Jurist of the Year by the Federal Bar Association in 2026 and received the inaugural Director's Award for Civility from the Criminal Defense Bar Association in 2025. The University of San Diego School of Law honored him with its Distinguished Alumni Award in 2023. A Certified Specialist in Criminal Law, he chaired the State Bar of California's Criminal Law Advisory Commission and served as Vice-Chair of its Board of Legal Specialization. He holds an AV Preeminent rating from Martindale-Hubbell, was recognized by Super Lawyers for 11 consecutive years, and was named to The Best Lawyers in America.

Judge Berg earned his Juris Doctor from the University of San Diego School of Law and his Bachelor of Arts from the University of South Dakota.

To learn more about Hon. Michael S. Berg (Ret.), please visit: LINK

About Signature Resolution

Founded in 2017 in the heart of Los Angeles, Signature Resolution comprises a panel of distinguished neutrals hailing from diverse backgrounds, including respected judges and trial attorneys specializing in virtually every civil practice area. The founding partners inaugurated the organization with a vision of providing the highest level of service and convenience for attorneys and their clients. Signature Resolution's panelists offer unrivaled expertise and commitment to resolve even the most challenging legal matters. In addition to the Los Angeles location, Signature Resolution also has offices across California. For more information about the firm's mediation, arbitration, and other dispute resolution services, visit signatureresolution.com.