

Signature Resolution Welcomes Hon. Dennis M. Cota (Ret.) to Our Panel of Neutrals

Former litigator and U.S. Magistrate Judge brings mastery of civil rights and public entity litigation and federal judicial experience to Resolving complex disputes.

SACRAMENTO, CA (September 3, 2026) — [Signature Resolution](#) is proud to announce that Hon. Dennis M. Cota (Ret.) has joined our panel of neutrals, where he will serve as a mediator and arbitrator across complex civil rights and public entity disputes, including land use and environmental, contract, police misconduct, and constitutional matters. As a former U.S. Magistrate Judge and public law litigator, Judge Cota brings a grounded, time-tested command of how civil rights and public entity disputes get built, argued, and ultimately resolved.

In session, Judge Cota gets past a party's stated position to what's actually driving it, then works that specific pressure point directly with the people who feel it, rather than letting the case circle its own rhetoric. He brings real creativity to a dispute once the obvious paths have already failed, combining facts and options the parties hadn't considered on their own. And he does not treat a deadlocked session as the end of the matter. He comes back to it, tests a new angle, and stays engaged until the parties reach terms they arrived at themselves.

Judge Cota built his three decades as a litigator representing cities, counties, and law enforcement agencies in civil rights and environmental cases with statewide implications for how public entities handle exposure and risk. He tried this work first at Best Best & Krieger LLP, where he served as managing partner of the Ontario and later Sacramento offices, then as founding partner of Cota Cole & Huber LLP, where he grew a public law practice with reach across California. In 2018, he was appointed U.S. Magistrate Judge for the Eastern District of California, a role he held for eight years, where attorneys came to request him by name for cases that had resisted resolution elsewhere.

"Judge Cota has spent his career getting cases to the finish line, first as a litigator, then as a judge, and now as a mediator who won't let a difficult case remain unresolved," said Dario Higuchi, founder and Chief Executive Officer of Signature Resolution. "We are proud to welcome him to our panel."

Beyond the bench, Judge Cota has remained closely involved in training the next generation of trial lawyers. He has served as director and coach of the University of California, Davis, School of Law's Trial Advocacy Competition and taught Trial Practice and Advanced Trial Practice as a lecturer there, too. He has also lectured on civil procedure and evidence through the University of California, Riverside Extension Program and served as a guest lecturer at the University of La Verne College of Law.

Judge Cota earned his Juris Doctor from the University of California, Davis, School of Law, and his Bachelor of Arts from the University of California, Los Angeles.

To learn more about Hon. Dennis M. Cota (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.