



ABBY SILVERMAN WEISS

DISPUTE RESOLUTIONS

Mediation, Arbitration and Consulting, Specializing in Employment Law and Business Disputes

Practice Description

Abby Silverman serves as a mediator and an arbitrator, specializing in employment disputes and business controversies arising from employment relationships. She is a member of the Employment/Workforce Specialist panel at the **National Conflict Resolution Center**, serves on the Civil Mediation Panel of the **San Diego Superior Court**, and serves as a mediator and arbitrator on both the Employment Law and Complex Litigation panels of the **American Arbitration Association**. Ms. Silverman also consults on employment and human resources projects.

Practice Experience

Ms. Silverman's practice experience at **Baker & McKenzie**, a global law firm with over 3900 lawyers practicing in 36 countries, included commercial and employment dispute resolution, business and employment law litigation and counseling. Alternative dispute resolution was a significant part of her practice. Ms. Silverman also counseled clients on policies, practices and procedures including: employment aspects of corporate governance; employment agreements with key executives; protection of confidential information and trade secrets; issues relating to hiring, promotions, demotions, discharges, reductions in force; employment issues in mergers and acquisitions; severance agreements and strategies; privacy; and dispute resolution. She assisted employers in conducting investigations of employee misconduct, including sexual harassment, and provided advice to companies which engage in cross-border operations on US employment law issues and the inter-relationship of non-US and US employment laws.

Abby Silverman's most recent position with Baker was Of Counsel to their North American (NA) Region, where her assignments included designing the Human Resources Audit Program, conducting on-site audits, consulting on policies, leading the Women's Initiative, and selecting the Firm's first Diversity Director.

Prior to that, Ms. Silverman has held several elected and appointed management positions in Baker & McKenzie including Managing Partner of the San Diego Office (1998-2001) and head of the San Diego Litigation and Employment Practice Group (2001-2007). She also was appointed to the NA Diversity Oversight Committee (2002-2009) and chair of the US Benefits and Human Resources Committee (1994-2001). She was elected to the firm-wide Professional Development Committee (1992-1999) and firm-wide Policy Committee (1996-2001).

Professional Affiliations

Ms. Silverman is a member of the Employment/Workforce Specialist panel at the **National Conflict Resolution Center** and serves on both the Employment Law and Complex Litigation panels of the **American Arbitration Association**. She is an Emeritus Director of the **Association of Business Trial Lawyers (ABTL)** (San Diego chapter), a member of the **American Bar Association**, the **San Diego Bar Association** and the **San Diego Lawyers' Club**. She is an Emeritus Director of **San Diego Athena**, a Director of the **Athena Foundation**, an Honorary Lifetime Member of the **CONNECT** Board of Directors and has served on the Board of Visitors for the University of San Diego School of Law.

Community Involvement

Ms. Silverman is an active member of several community and educational organizations. She is on the Board of **Library Commissioners for the City of San Diego**. She is a trustee of **Scripps Health**, including two terms as Chairman. She currently is chair of the Human Resources Committee, and serves on the audit, strategic planning, and foundation committees. Ms. Silverman also is an Advisory Board member of the **Scripps Translational Science Institute**. She is a director of **Planned Parenthood of the Pacific Southwest**, a Director of the **Mingei International Museum**, an advisory executive board member of the **Rancho La Puerta** Group and a member of the **Chancellor's Community Advisory Board** for UCSD.

Awards & Honors

Ms. Silverman is the recipient of several community awards. Those related to her professional achievements are the **Coalition of Reproductive Choice's** 2013 Defender of Choice Award, the 2000 **University of San Diego School of Law** Distinguished Alumni Award, the 2000 **Tribute to Women in Industry (TWIN)** Award, the 2000 Individual **Athena Pinnacle** Award, the 1994 Faye Stender Award from **California Women Lawyers**, and the 1992 Recipient of the Community Achievement Award from **Lawyers Club of San Diego**. She is listed in Best Lawyers in America for 2008 through 2013 and the Southern California Super Lawyers lists for 2007 through 2013 along with other local and national lists of select lawyers in her areas of concentration.

Education & Bar Admittance

Ms. Silverman has completed the NCRC Mediator Credential Program and several other advanced courses in mediation and arbitration skills. Ms. Silverman was admitted to practice law in the State of California, the Supreme Court of California, and the US District Court, Southern District of California in 1979; the US Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit in 1985; and the US District Court, Central and Eastern District of California in 1989. Ms. Silverman received her JD degree from the University of San Diego in 1979, her MSW degree from Bryn Mawr College in 1963, and her BA degree from Wellesley College in 1961.

Publications, Presentations & Articles

Ms. Silverman regularly writes and speaks on mediation and alternative dispute resolution topics and on employment law, corporate governance and privacy issues. Her audiences are other lawyers and professionals, industry and trade organizations, human resources professionals and community groups. She was a presenter at the 2008 Annual Meeting of the California Society of Healthcare Lawyers, and participated as a panelist for the 2007 UCSD Rady School of Management "On Board" program and the 2006 California Association of Business Trial Lawyers annual seminar. She also has participated in the Association of Business Trial Lawyers Mock Trial Mini Series, the California Judges Association and Rutter Group Employment Law Program, the faculty of the National Institute for Trial Advocacy, and the annual California Women Lawyers' Rainmaking Program. She has taught advanced Continuing Education of the Bar (CEB) courses for lawyers with experience in litigation and employment law, has been a regular presenter at Baker & McKenzie professional education programs, and has been a visiting instructor at the University Of San Diego School Of Law.