



AAA Mediation.org™

FN-3984 MN-3984 LN-3984, Esq.

St. Clair Shores, Michigan



Current Employer-Title	Merry, Farnen & Ryan, P. C. – Senior Counsel; Prior Employer- Abbott, Nicholson, Quilter, Esshaki & Youngblood, P. C.-Senior Counsel
Profession	Attorney - Commercial, Corporate, Complex Business Litigation, Arbitration, Facilitation, Mediation
Work History	Merry, Farnen & Ryan, P. C., Senior Counsel. Prior Employer-Officer/Director/Shareholder, Abbott, Nicolson, Quilter, Esshaki & Youngblood P.C., 1977 – 2014; Chief Executive Officer, 1999 – 2008; Shareholder and Member of the Board of Directors/Executive Committee Member/Partner, Abbott Nicholson Quilter Esshaki & Youngblood P.C., 1977 – 2015; Senior Counsel 2016-2023.
Experience	Over forty years of experience as business, corporate, and commercial transaction attorney, concentrating in business and complex commercial litigation. As General Counsel, represented closely held corporations with sales ranging from \$1 million to \$500 million. Special counsel to national and multi-national corporations. Handled all aspects of business law and litigation for clients in every field of endeavor. Also managed the business of a fully integrated, medium-sized business law firm, most recently as chief executive officer. Extensive experience in Mergers & Acquisitions, post-closing accountings and adjustments and Joint Venture disputes in all fields of commercial endeavor.
Mediator Experience	Mediated over 600 cases, predominantly in the business dispute area, shareholder and partner disputes, breach of contracts, mergers and acquisitions, insurance disputes, real estate purchase and lease agreement disputes, professional liability cases, personal injury and property damage insured claims. Approved by the Supreme Court of Michigan as a qualified mediator. Listed on the roster of mediators in several Michigan state courts as well as the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan. Also, prior council member of the State Bar of Michigan Alternative Dispute Resolution Section. Taught seminars on ADR through the Institute for Continuing Legal Education in Michigan that are required for mediators to maintain their state qualification.
Representative Issues Handled as a Mediator	Issues have included: catastrophic injury claims; partnership disputes in real estate development ventures; commercial lease disputes for manufacturing facilities; breach of warranty issues in asset purchase agreements; patent disputes/royalty payments; personal injury/automobile claims; construction bond indemnity claims; employment claims/manufacturing and service industries; and commissioned agent claims.

Mediator Style & Process Preferences	I believe that mediation is a cooperative process that involves participation by all parties and counsel. If impasse occurs, I will work to break it by explaining to the participants the consequences of failing to concur. While I will maintain neutrality throughout the process, I am not above the occasional push when necessary to overcome resistance. Finally, I recognize that in some cases it may not be time to settle and in some cases the time may never be right to settle and the parties must have their hearings to reach conclusion.
Education	Wayne State University (JD-1974; BA-1971).
Professional Licenses	Admitted to the Bar: Michigan (1974); U.S. District Court: Eastern and Western Districts of Michigan; U.S. Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit; U.S. Supreme Court (2009). Michigan Supreme Court Certified Mediator (2002).
Professional Associations	Michigan Bar Association (General Practice Section; Litigation Section); Oakland County Bar Association; Macomb County Bar Association; Metropolitan Detroit Bar Association (Past Director); Detroit Bar Foundation (Past Trustee-President); Michigan Bar Foundation (Fellow); International Mediation Institute (IMI) Certified Mediator. Member American Board of Trial Advocates. Member Academy of Distinguished Neutrals. Member Professional Resolution Experts of Michigan. Special Master, U.S.D.C., E.D. MI In Re Automotive Parts Anti-Trust Litigation, 9-2014 to Present.
Mediation Rate	\$600 Per Hour
Languages	English
Citizenship	United States of America
Locale	St. Clair Shores, MI

The AAA's Rules provide the AAA with the authority to administer a mediation including, mediator appointment, general oversight and billing. Accordingly, mediations that proceed without AAA administration are not considered AAA mediations, even when the parties select an mediator who is on the AAA's Roster.

The information contained in this resume has been supplied solely by the individual mediator and may, or may not, be a complete recitation of their experience. The AAA assumes no responsibility for the content, completeness, accuracy, or reliability of the information contained in a mediator's resume. If you have any questions about a mediator's experience or background, you are encouraged to contact your case manager.

Mediators on the AAA Roster are not employees or agents of the AAA.