

MELVIN D. KENNEDY

Attorney, Mediator, Arbitrator

MEDIATION EXPERIENCE

The Law Office of Melvin D. Kennedy, LLC – March 2013 – present; I serve as a mediator for the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri and the Circuit Courts for the Twenty-First and Twenty-Second Judicial Circuits in Missouri. Additionally, I mediate charges of employment discrimination for the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) through its ADR program. I have conducted 70+ mediations with a successful resolution rate of 75%. I also serve as an arbitrator for the Council of Better Business Bureaus (BBB).

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Association of Attorney-Mediators (both St. Louis and National Chapters).

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

The Law Office of Melvin D. Kennedy, LLC – March 2013 – present; Legal practice focuses primarily in the area of employment law, including claims of unlawful discrimination under federal and state laws.

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission - August 1998 – March 2013; Practice included selection of appropriate cases in which to file suit against private employers to enforce Federal laws prohibiting unlawful forms of workplace discrimination, including Title VII, ADA, ADEA and EPA. Responsibilities included litigation of the Commission's lawsuits from beginning to conclusion, whether by way of settlement, successful ADR, or trial. Responsibilities also included review of investigative files to determine whether there was reason to believe an employer had violated any of the laws the Commission enforces. In addition, I frequently provided in-house training on legal matters to the Commission's investigators and participated in the Commission's outreach efforts through its Technical Assistance Program Seminars (TAPS), Tribal Employment Rights Office (TERO) training and Youth at Work initiative.

Greensfelder, Hemker & Gale, P.C. - July 1996 - August 1998; Practice included litigation of employment discrimination claims, including Title VII, ADA, ADEA and 42 U.S.C. §1981, as well as defense of employment related state law tort claims and general civil litigation. Also served as Prosecuting Attorney for one of the firm's municipal clients.

Maricopa County Public Defender - May 1995 - July 1996; Practice included representation of indigent clients facing felony and misdemeanor charges. Representation included all aspects of criminal defense, including preliminary hearings, motion practice, trials and post trial motions.

Thompson & Mitchell - March 1993 - April 1995; Practice areas included commercial litigation, tort defense and representation of creditors' interests in consumer and corporate bankruptcy cases.

OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE

Southwestern Bell Telephone Company - Manager, Corporate Systems; August 1985 - July 1989; Supervised batch processing and implementation of software updates for on-line applications supporting five states.

Systems Analyst, Information Systems; July 1989 - May 1991; Provided staff support of on-line and batch processing in St. Louis and Dallas data centers.

McDonnell Douglas Corporation - Project Planner; February 1984 - August 1985; Monitored cost accounts, processed budget changes, developed engineering master schedules and provided manpower forecasts for the F-15 and AV-8 Harrier programs.

Orscheln Brake Lever Company - Buyer; May 1981 - February 1982; Purchased maintenance and repair items for brake lever manufacturing operations. Responsibilities also included contract negotiation, vendor evaluation and expediting.

EDUCATION

Saint Louis University School of Law - J.D., Jan. 1993; Cum Laude; Saint Louis University Law Journal Vol. 36; Alpha Sigma Nu - National Jesuit Honor Society; President - Black Law Student Association 1991-92.

University of Missouri-Columbia - Master of Public Administration, Dec. 1983; Pi Alpha Alpha - National Honor Society of Public Affairs and Administration.

Truman State University - B.S. Business Administration, May 1981

PERSONAL DATA

Married to Gala Kennedy (27 yrs.); two children, Jordan, 22 yrs. old (daughter) and Justin 14 yrs. old (son); Board member of Community Mediation Services of St. Louis; former Board member The First Tee of Greater St. Louis; former Board President of University City in Bloom; former Board member of Crime Stoppers St. Louis.