

**Rebecca Callahan, Esq.** is a full-time attorney neutral working in the fields of commercial arbitration and mediation. She is a member of the commercial arbitration and mediation panels of the **American Arbitration Association**, as well as the large complex case, international (ICDR) and Master Mediator panels. She is a Fellow of the **College of Commercial Arbitrators**, and a member of the mediation and arbitration panels of the **National Academy of Distinguished Neutrals**. Rebecca is known for her advance preparation, creative thinking, high energy, and collaborative style, as well as her ability to bring difficult disputes to a close in an efficient, economic, thoughtful and fair manner. She has been appointed as arbitrator in over 150 matters, including numerous three-arbitrator panel appointments. She has served as mediator in over 1,200 matters.



Rebecca's experience in dispute resolution covers a broad spectrum of industries, subject matters and disputes, including: breach of contract; bankruptcy reorganization; cannabis licensing, business sales and marketing; cryptocurrency investments and exchange transactions; commercial lending; commercial real property leasing and sale; equipment leasing; intellectual property development, ownership and licensing; insolvency (*e.g.*, preferences, fraudulent transfers and lien priority); purchase and sale of businesses; intra-partner disputes involving accountings, allegations of breach of fiduciary duty, and claims for dissociation and dissolution; financial elder abuse; franchisor-franchisee relations; real property purchase, sale and development; wills and trusts disputes involving trustees versus beneficiaries, and beneficiaries versus beneficiaries; and wills and trusts disputes involving claims of undue influence and will contests.

Rebecca has always been an active member of her local and state bar organizations. Most recently, she has served on the Board of Directors of the Masters Division of the Orange County Bar Association (2021-2022), and previously served a three-year term on the Board of Directors of the Orange County Bar Association (2014-2016), and as Vice Chair and then Chair of the ADR Section (2012 and 2013).

Rebecca has been an adjunct professor, skills trainer and presenter for over 20 years. She has been an adjunct professor at **Pepperdine University School of Law** since 2010, where she has taught arbitration theory and practice and mediation. She has been on the faculty of the **American Arbitration Association** since 2011, where she has taught numerous professional skills training courses in arbitration and mediation. Over the years, Rebecca has participated in numerous continuing education conferences and has presented on numerous topics.

Rebecca is available globally for in-person assignments, and is able to host using video conferencing or hybrid sessions.

---

**WORK HISTORY**

---

Arbitrator – Mediator, Callahan Dispute Resolution, 2005-Present

Attorney, Callahan Law Corporation, 1993-2015

Partner, Lobel Winthrop & Broker, 1986-1993

Associate, Buchalter Nemer Fields & Younger, 1985-1986

Associate, Allen Matkins Leck Gamble & Mallory, 1983-1985

Associate, Kindel & Anderson, 1982-1983

---

**EDUCATION**

---

University of California, Berkeley, J.D.

University of Southern California, B.A.

Pepperdine University School of Law / Straus Institute, LL.M. in Dispute Resolution

---

**GENERAL SUBSTANTIVE EXPERIENCE**

---

20+ years experience as a business litigator. My practice was largely in the Chapter 11 / reorganization space where my cases frequently included (a) litigated disputes with lenders, landlords, insurers, investors, and the like from both the debtor and creditor perspectives, (b) prosecution and defense of nondischargeability cases for fraud or defalcation, and (c) the valuation, title and/or disposition of real property. Some case digests are available on my website.

For a 5-year period during my litigation practice, represented a hospital in several provider/payor disputes, including the liquidation of the hospital's 7-figure claim in the MedPartners bankruptcy.

For the last 5 years of my litigation practice - before becoming a full-time neutral - successfully represented an elder ("mom") in litigation against her eldest son to trace and reclaim title to her \$20 million real estate portfolio. Then successfully represented the youngest son (after mom died) in defending the eldest son's challenge to mom's will and trust, which disinherited the eldest son.

Through my arbitration and mediation practice, my experience has been EXP ANDED to include the following:

A) Intra-partner/ intra-member disputes seeking dissolution, accounting, and/or expulsion for breach of fiduciary duty, fraud, defalcation, and/or conversion of assets. Some of these cases have involved family partnerships that operated manufacturing businesses or commercial real properties.

B) Rights and remedies flowing from stock or asset purchase transactions when the transaction fails or does not conform to what was represented or planned.

---

---

C) Breach of contract in the context of distributorship and independent sales representative agreements.

D) Cryptocurrency disputes including such matters as **(1)** the purchase and development of real property to be used as a bitcoin mining operation; **(2)** the design and manufacture of specialized ASIC chips for use in bitcoin mining computers; and **(3)** the transfer and exchange of bitcoin currency between custodial and non-custodial wallets.

E) Franchisor/ Franchisee disputes including such matters as **(1)** franchisors terminating the franchisee "for cause" and seeking liquidated damages and injunctive relief; and **(2)** franchisees seeking to unwind the franchise agreement based upon problems with the franchise disclosure document and/or franchisor performance issues re franchisee support or the alleged lack thereof.

F) Healthcare arbitrations including such matters as **(1)** disputes over whether services were medically necessary or compensated at the proper rate; **(2)** termination of a pharmacy's network contract for failure to disclose the pharmacy's true owner; and **(3)** disputes between the buyer and seller after the proposed purchase and sale of a Medicare Advantage plan failed.

G) Intellectual property disputes including such matters as **(1)** claims of patent infringement through alleged reverse engineering and the companion claim invalidity defense, and **(2)** breach of exclusive license agreement for alleged failure to use commercially reasonable efforts to develop, promote and sell the licensed products.

H) Probate/ Wills and Trusts mediations involving disputes **(1)** between beneficiaries or **(2)** between the trustee and one or more beneficiaries of a trust. Probate law is similar to bankruptcy law in the sense that it provides a procedural and substantive law backdrop for determining parties' rights and interests in a finite estate defined by date of filing (bankruptcy) or date of death (probate).

---

#### **ARBITRATION EXPERIENCE – INTERNATIONAL**

- Intellectual property dispute seeking unpaid royalties under a world-wide merchandise licensing agreement. Amount in dispute / in excess of \$10 million. Panel Chair.
- Dispute between international investors and a U.S. investment broker concerning the broker's performance. Amount in dispute / in excess of \$1 million. Panel Member.
- Breach of contract dispute between the U.S.-based manufacturer of specialized defense equipment and a Canadian based reseller. Amount in dispute / between \$250,000 and \$500,000. Sole Arbitrator.
- Breach of Representative Agreement concerning commission claim by Greek entity for helping a U.S. company secure numerous infrastructure contracts with the Greek State. Amount in dispute / \$2 million. Sole Arbitrator.

- Breach of contract dispute between a U.S.-based provider of staffing services and its Canadian-based customer. Amount in dispute / \$1 million. Sole Arbitrator.
- Partnership dissolution and final accounting dispute between a U.S. citizen partner and a non-U.S. citizen partner. Amount in dispute/ \$2 million. Sole Arbitrator

---

#### **ARBITRATION EXPERIENCE - DOMESTIC**

- Dispute between members of a family partnership and the managing member. Claims involved accounting, tracing and expulsion of managing member, plus claims of fraud, breach of fiduciary duty, conversion, etc. Amount in dispute/ in excess of several million dollars. Panel Member.
- Dispute re independent insurance agent's ownership of his book of business, related intellectual property and ESI stored on the agency's server. Claims involved breach of contract, breach of fiduciary duty, fraud, misappropriation of trade secrets, wrongful interference with contract. Amount in dispute / \$2 million. Panel Member.
- Dispute between cryptocurrency mining company and computer equipment designer/manufacturer. Amount in dispute / \$20 million. Panel Chair.
- Dispute among members of an LLC concerning management of and ownership rights in a winery. Amount in dispute / Several million dollars, plus declaratory relief. Sole Arbitrator.
- Dispute between inventor/licensor and its customer/licensee. Claims for patent infringement and breach of contract, with counterclaims. Amount in dispute / in excess of \$10 million. Sole Arbitrator.
- Dispute between LLC members for dissolution and accounting. Amount in dispute / in excess of \$5 million. Sole Arbitrator

---

#### **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

American Arbitration Association, Mediation and Arbitration Panels / Commercial, Large Complex Case, Healthcare and Consumer Panels  
 International Centre for Dispute Resolution, Mediation and Arbitration Panels  
 College of Commercial Arbitrators, Fellow  
 National Academy of Distinguished Neutrals, Mediation and Arbitration Panels  
 Pepperdine University School of Law, Adjunct Professor (2010 to 2025)  
 Orange County Bar Association, Board of Directors for the Masters Division (2021-2022), Past Director (2014-2016) and Past ADR Section Chair and Vice Chair (2011-2013)

---

## **COURT ADMISSIONS**

---

California Bar

U.S. Supreme Court

Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals

U.S. District Court, Central, Eastern, Northern and Southern Districts of California

## **PERSONAL**

---

Married to Rich Keys, an attorney and principal of Bidna & Keys APLC

One son, Alex Keys, an entrepreneur / business owner, married to Jacqueline, an HR manager

Hobbies and interests include the gym, walking her dogs, pickleball and bridge

## **PUBLICATIONS**

---

- Contributor to Chapter 2 of the College of Commercial Arbitrators' "Guide to Best Practices in Commercial Arbitration" (Juris, 2025) ( chapter on arbitrator ethics)
- "Five Things Litigators Must Know Before Stepping Into An Arbitration" (Advocate Magazine, September 2021)
- "Arbitration Clauses: Hot Questions & Cool Answers" (OC Lawyer, February 2017)
- "Arbitration Clauses: A Contemporary Look at Advanced Drafting Considerations" (OC Lawyer, April 2017)
- Facework in Mediation" (OC Lawyer, November 2016)
- "Mediation Advocacy: Negotiation Tips and Perspectives" (OC Lawyer, July 2015)
- "Piercing the Veil of Mediation" (LA Daily Journal, May 8, 2015)
- "Mediation Confidentiality: For California Litigants, Why Should Mediation Confidentiality be a Function of the Court in Which the Litigation is Pending?" 12 Pepp. Disp. Resol. L.J. 63 (2012)
- "It Takes Two to Tango: How to Get the Most Out of Mediation" Daily Journal Verdicts and Settlements (May 27, 2011)
- "What to Do When the Threat of Bankruptcy Becomes an Issue in Mediation" (ABA Litigation Section, Vol. 14, Issue 3, 2010)
- "Truth or Dare: California's New Ethics Standards for Private Arbitrators" (California State Bar, Business Law News, Issue 1, 2008)
- "California's New Ethics Standards: a Hot Bed of Controversy," 5 J. Am Arb. 295 (2006)

## **TEACHING & TRAINING**

---

- Arbitrator Level I Training – Presenter (AAA, 2025, 2024, 2023, 2022 and 2021)
  - "Arbitration Theory and Practice" – Adjunct Professor (Pepperdine School of Law, 2024, 2023, 2022, 2021, 2019, 2018, 2017 and 2016)
  - "Essential Skills for the New Mediator!" – Presenter (AAA Training Program for New Mediators, 2019, 2018, 2016, 2015, 2014 and 2013)
  - "Recent Developments in Arbitration and Mediation" – Presenter (OCBA-ADR Section, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014 and 2013)
  - "Arbitrator Ethics: Ensuring the Integrity of the Process" – Presenter (ABA Arbitration Institute, 2022)
  - "2021-2022 Recent Developments in Arbitration – Presenter (ABA Arbitration Institute, 2022)
  - "You're Not in Kansas Anymore: Seven Things Court Litigators Should Know Before Stepping Into an Arbitration" – Presenter (California Lawyers Association Section 2021)
  - "The Queen's Gambit: Skills, Techniques and Strategies for Seeing Three Moves Ahead in Mediation" – Presenter (California Lawyers Association 2021)
-

- 
- "Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Arbitrator Ethics and Party Recourse" – Presenter (OCBA, -2020)
  - "Contributing and Creating Value in Mediation - What Are Effective Techniques that Work to Get the Negotiation Started, Advance the Ball and Keep it Rolling Forward?" – Presenter (AAA Brown Bag Program, 2019)
  - "Value Added Mediation" – Presenter (SCMA Advanced Track, 2018)
  - "Settlement Building Techniques and Mediator Influence" – Presenter (U.S. District Court Advanced Arbitration Skills Institute" – Presenter (USC 2016 and 2017)
  - "Mediation Theory and Practice" – Adjunct Professor (Pepperdine School of Law, 2016, 2014, 2012, 2011 and 2010)
  - "Impasse: Mediating in the Red Zone" – Presenter (AAA, 2015)
  - "E-Discovery: Arbitration in a Digital World" – Presenter (AAA, 2015)
  - "Lying for the Sake of the Deal" – Presenter (ABA Dispute Resolution Section, 2015, AAA/ICDR, 2016)
  - "Conducting Research & Investigations: The Arbitrator's Authority" – Presenter (AAA, 2014)
  - "Principled Deliberations: Decision-Making Skills for Arbitrators" – Presenter (AAA, 2014)
  - "Are Your Secrets Safe in Mediation" – Presenter (OCBA, 2012)
  - "Follow the Money: Tips, Strategies and Special Issues Associated with Settling Insured Claims" – Presenter (OCBA, 2012)
  - "The Well Wrought ADR Clause" – Presenter (ABA-Dispute Resolution Section, 2012)
  - "Economy, Speed and Justice: What Neutrals, Forum Providers, Advocates and Parties Can do to Control and Reduce the Cost of ADR Processes – Presenter (OCBA-ADR Section, 2012).

---

#### **CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES**

- 
- Advanced Mediation and Dispute Resolution Process Management (AAA, 1-day program, 2025)
  - College of Commercial Arbitrators – Annual Conferences (2024, 2023, 2021, 2020, 2019 and 2018)
  - Advanced Mediation (Pepperdine University School of Law / Straus Institute, 3-day course, 2018)
  - Bench-Bar Experiences with the 2015 Discovery Proportionality Amendments (Duke Law Center for Judicial Studies, 1-day program, 2017)
  - Red Flags and Risk Areas: Challenges to Arbitrator Authority (AAA, 2-hour program, 2017)
  - Advanced Mediation Training (U.S. District Court, 1-day programs, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014 and 2013)
  - Advanced Arbitration Skills (University of Southern California Law School, 5-day program, 2016)
  - Resolving International Commercial Disputes (AAA/ICDR, 2-hour program, 2016)
  - Principled Deliberations / Decision-Making Skills for Arbitrators (AAA, 2-hour program, 2014)
  - Med-Arb: Is it Appropriate for a Neutral to Mediate a Case and then Hear and Decide the Case as Arbitrator? (OCBA-ADR Section, 1-hour program, 2013)
  - Follow the Money: Tips, Strategies and Special Issues Associated with Settling Insured Claims (OCBA-ADR Section, 1-hour program, 2012)
  - Apology, Forgiveness and Reconciliation (Pepperdine University School of Law / Straus Institute, 1-day program, 2012)
  - Neuroscience and Mediation (ABA Dispute Resolution Annual Conference, 1-hour program, 2011)
  - Good Judgments: Improving Assessment and Advocacy in Negotiation (ABA Dispute Resolution Annual Conference, 1-hour program, 2011)
  - Ethical Dilemmas in Mediation (ABA Dispute Resolution Annual Conference, 1-hour program, 2011)
  - Strategic Negotiating Skills (Pepperdine University School of Law / Straus Institute, 2-day course, 2011)
-

- 
- Confronting Arbitrability and Jurisdiction Issues in Arbitration (AAA, 2-hour program, 2011)
  - Managing the Arbitration Process for Efficiency and Economy Following the Preliminary Hearing (AAA, 2-hour program, 2011)
  - The Extent or Limit of Mediator Influence to Effect Settlement (AAA, 2-hour program, 2011)
  - Dealing with Delays in Arbitration (AAA, 2-hour program, 2010)
  - Mediating in the Red Zone (Pepperdine University School of Law / Straus Institute, 2-day course, 2010)
  - Mediating Employment, Personal Injury and Professional Liability Cases (Pepperdine University School of Law / Straus Institute, 2-day course, 2009)
  - Negotiating Litigated Disputes – From Practical to Tactical (AAA, 2-hour program, 2009)
  - The Extent or Limit of Mediator Influence to Effect Settlement (AAA, 2-hour program, 2011)
  - Dealing with Delays in Arbitration (AAA, 2-hour program, 2010)
  - Mediating the Complex Case (Straus Institute, 2-day course , 2008)
  - Standards for Efficient and Cost Effective Arbitration (AAA, 2-hour program, 2008)
  - Best Practices in Commercial Arbitration (College of Commercial Arbitrators, 1-day program, 2007)
-