

AS SEEN IN *Forbes & Fortune*

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WOMEN BUSINESS LEADERS



Celebrating 30 Years of Success and Resolution

ADR Services, Inc. helps clients resolve disputes efficiently and in a more cost-effective manner than traditional systems.

As the second largest alternative dispute resolution provider in California, ADR Services, Inc. achieves a settlement rate between 90% to 95%—an impressive number given the company handled 15,000 cases in 2023 and is on track to handle 20,000 in 2024.

Driven largely by mediation and arbitration services, ADR Services, Inc.'s seven offices work with worldwide individuals and corporations across industries such as business, real estate, insurance, construction, finance, and health care. The firm also handles mock trials, moot courts, appellate consultations, private bench trials, and discovery issues.

But the firm's most important differentiator is that it wasn't founded by a legal system insider. Instead, it was founded by Lucie Barron, a successful businesswoman who saw the need for mediation services after becoming involved in litigation herself.

"We've always approached this line of business from a client perspective," says Joanna Barron, executive vice president and principal. The firm's services are in such high demand because of its strong reputation for success that multiple Fortune 500 and even Fortune 50 firms have listed ADR Services, Inc. as a provider of choice.

Becoming ADR Services, Inc.

Grit and determination come naturally to Lucie, who began her career as a psychologist. But when she found herself the sole caretaker for seven children after her husband moved overseas, she pursued an MBA and made a career in business. Following some personal experience with lawsuits, Lucie thought there had to be a more cost-effective and efficient way to manage disputes than the U.S. court system. She quickly learned about alternative dispute resolution, and thus ADR Services, Inc. was born.

But what is alternative dispute resolution? For ADR Services, Inc. it sometimes includes mediation—a voluntary means of solving legal disputes without going to court—or arbitration, an increasingly common practice where a dispute is settled by a neutral party. With ADR Services, Inc.'s administration, most cases settle before even making it to arbitration, and its mediation services ensure only 1.3% of cases go to trial on the state side and 1.7% go to trial federally.

Today, the firm works exclusively with a pool of 150 talented Neutrals—private sector judges with a wide depth and breadth of experiences, as well as attorneys who are both litigators and leading subject matter experts.

"We try to know as much as we possibly can about our Neutrals so we feel confident recommending them for specific cases," says Lucie.

As one of the original alternative dispute resolution services firms in California, ADR Services, Inc. maintains strong industry ties by sponsoring and attending conferences and providing experienced speakers for industry events. The firm even provides high-caliber, free legal education programming through its award-winning Continuing Legal Education program.

Reflecting back on their success, Lucie and Joanna feel proud to have helped countless litigants achieve resolution in a timely manner while also helping relieve the overworked court system. They look forward to developing new relationships as the business grows. After all, says Lucie, "We are here to resolve, repair, and help bring peace back into clients' lives so they can move on."



Your Partner in Resolution