



SUSAN HERNANDEZ, ESQ.

Former Chief of Staff to the Presiding Justice, Appellate Division, First Judicial Department

Susan Hernandez, Esq. has consistently been recognized as a Top Three Neutral by the New York legal community. Her mediation experience includes all types of cases ranging from smaller value cases to multi-million-dollar disputes. In addition to personal injury cases, she has experience mediating cases involving real property/ partition, contracts, employment, discrimination, and sexual harassment matters. Ms. Hernandez approaches each case with a view towards resolution. In addition to mediating and conferencing cases, she was responsible for training and assisting the Court Attorneys in the conferencing and settlement of Supreme Court cases.

Ms. Hernandez is a strong proponent of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) and brings her experience as the former Mediation Coordinator in the Supreme Court, Bronx County, to NAM's New York Metro panel of neutrals. In 2023, she was voted the #1 Mediator by the *New York Law Journal* "Best Of" survey (she was also voted the #1 Mediator in 2017, 2018, and 2021). In 2020, she was voted both a Top Three Mediator and Top Three Arbitrator. Additionally, in 2023, the *New Jersey Law Journal* "Best Of" survey, named Ms. Hernandez a Top Three Mediator/Arbitrator in the state (she was also voted the #1 Mediator/Arbitrator in 2020 and 2022).

In 2012, Ms. Hernandez was appointed to spearhead the Mediation Pilot Program in the Bronx Supreme Court, administered by the Appellate Division, First Department and the Bronx County Supreme Court. As the Mediation Coordinator, she conferenced and mediated multiple cases each day and has resolved and/or disposed of well over 1,000 cases.

Prior to her appointment to the Mediation Pilot Program, Ms. Hernandez served as the Chief of Staff to the Presiding Justice of the Supreme Court, Bronx County. As the assistant to the presiding justice, she assisted with all administrative issues that were before the judge and coordinated all office and judicial activities. She also supervised the staff of the presiding justice and assisted in the coordination and staffing of the Court. As a litigator in private practice prior to her Court appointments, Ms. Hernandez handled personal injury matters from inception to trial. She was the managing attorney and/or partner of several law firms and handled all phases of litigation, including the negotiation and resolution of the matters on behalf of the respective firm's clients.

Her other accolades include being named a *National Law Journal* 2017 Alternative Dispute Resolution Champion, as part of a select group of only 37 nationwide, for the second straight year. She was also ranked a Top Ten Mediator in the 2015 and 2016 *New York Law Journal* "Best Of" surveys and a Top Ten Arbitrator in 2016. Further, Ms. Hernandez was the recipient of the 2015 "Mediator of the Year Award" by the Institute of Jewish Humanities.

Renowned for her advocacy, legal acumen and insight, Ms. Hernandez is a staunch supporter of women's rights and diversity in the workplace and frequently lectures on ways to establish procedures and policies to increase the appointment of women and minorities in the courtroom and as arbitrators and mediators in ADR.

Ms. Hernandez is available to arbitrate and mediate cases throughout the New York Metro area.

AREAS of EXPERIENCE

- Elder Care
- Labor Law
- Legal Malpractice
- Medical Malpractice
- Negligence
- Premises Liability
- Torts & Product Liability

LECTURES and PUBLICATIONS

- Speaker, *Inside the Mind of a Mediator: Avoiding Impasse and Maximizing Outcomes in Mediation*, NAM Academy, 2022
- Speaker, *Mediation in Personal Injury Matters – The Mediator’s Perspective*, New York State Bar Association (NYSBA), 2018
- Speaker, *Diversity in the Workplace*, The Scales of Justice Academy, 2018
- Speaker, *If Not Now, When? Achieving Equality for Women Attorneys in the Courtroom and in ADR*, presented to Women in E-Discovery, Women Empowering Women, 2018
- Speaker, *Alternative Dispute Resolution: A Guide to Mediation*, presented to London Fischer LLP, 2018

HONORS and AWARDS

- *New York Law Journal* "Best Of" survey, Best Individual Mediator Category
 - Winner, 2023, 2021, 2018, 2017
 - Top Three, 2022, 2020, 2019
 - Top Ten, 2016, 2015
- *New York Law Journal* "Best Of" survey, Best Individual Arbitrator Category
 - Top Three, 2023
 - Top Ten, 2016
- *New Jersey Law Journal* "Best Of" survey, Best Individual Mediator/Arbitrator Category
 - Top Three, 2023
 - Winner, 2020, 2022
- Latina Lawyer of the Year, Latino Lawyers Association of Queen County, 2018
- *National Law Journal*, Alternative Dispute Resolution Champion, 2016,2017
- Mediator of the Year Award, Institute of the Jewish Humanities, 2015
- President’s Award, Bronx County Bar Association, 2013
- Distinguished Achievement in the Law Award, Puerto Rican Bar Association, 1997

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

- Mediator Coordinator, Supreme Court of the State of New York, Bronx County, 2012
- Chief of Staff to Presiding Justice Hon. Luis A. Gonzalez, Appellate Division, 1st Dept., 2010
- Founding Partner, Susan Hernandez, P.C., 1995
- Partner, Burns & Hernandez, Esqs., 1988
- Managing Attorney, Copeland & Tillem, Esqs., 1986

PROFESSIONAL LICENSES and ADMISSIONS

- New York State Bar

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS and ASSOCIATIONS

- Bronx County Bar Association
- Member New York City Trial Lawyers Association
- Member New York State Trial Lawyers Association
- Metropolitan Women's Bar Association
- Member, Nassau County Bar Association

EDUCATION

- Brooklyn Law School, J.D.
- Baruch College, B.A.