



**SUSAN HERNANDEZ, ESQ.**

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

Susan Hernandez, Esq. has consistently been recognized as a Top Three Neutral by the New York legal community. In 2022, she was voted a Top Three Mediator by the New York Law Best of Survey and in the prior year she was ranked the #1 Mediator in the state (also voted the #1 Mediator in 2017 and 2018). In 2020, she was voted both a Top Three Mediator and Top Three Arbitrator. 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.

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

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 Surveys and a Top Ten Arbitrator in the 2016 Survey. 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, *Mediation in Personal Injury Matters – The Mediator’s Perspective*, presented to the 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
- Speaker/Panel Member, *Gender Diversity in Arbitration and Mediation Selection: If Not Now, When? Achieving Equality for Women Attorneys in the Courtroom and in ADR*, presented to the Nassau County Women’s Bar Association, 2017
- Speaker, *Alternative Dispute Resolution: A Guide to Mediation*, presented to Crum & Forster and Seneca Insurance, 2017
- Author, *Preparing for a Successful Mediation – It’s Elementary!*, New York Law Journal Alternative Dispute Resolution Special Report, 2017
- Author, *Revisiting Mediation: Key Components To Success*, New York State Trial Lawyers Association, Bill of Particular’s, Vol. II, 2016
- Speaker/Panel Member, *Alternative Dispute Resolution: A Guide to Mediation and Arbitration* presented to the Korean American Lawyers Association of Greater New York (KALAGNY), 2016
- Author, *Travel the Road to a Successful Mediation*, New York Law Journal Special Report on Alternative Dispute Resolution, 2016
- Author, *Revisiting Mediation – Key Components to Success*, New York State Bar Association (NYSBA) Bill of Particulars, Vol. II, 2016
- Speaker/Panel Member, *When and How to Settle... or Fight*, sponsored by the New York State Trial Lawyers Association, 2015
- Author, *A Fresh Look At Mediation*, New York Law Journal, 2015
- Author, *Resolve Thorny Issues Before Coming to Mediation – The Compensation Lien*, New York Law Journal, 2015
- Speaker, *10 Things Every Solo and Small Firm Practitioner Should Know About*, LGBT Bar Association of Greater New York’s Solo and Small Law Firm Practitioners, 2014

**HONORS and AWARDS**

- New York Law Journal Best of Survey, 2022, Top Three – Best Individual Mediator Category
- New York Law Journal Best Of Survey, 2021, Winner – Best Individual Mediator Category
- New York Law Journal Best Survey 2020, Top Three - Best Individual Mediator Category
- New York Law Journal Best Of Survey 2020, Top Three - Best Individual Arbitrator Category
- New York Law Journal Best Of Survey 2019, Top Three - Best Individual Mediator Category
- 2018 Latina Lawyer of the Year, Latino Lawyers Association of Queens County, 2018
- New York Law Journal Reader Rankings Survey 2018, Winner - Best Individual Mediator Category
- New York Law Journal Reader Rankings Survey 2017, Winner - Best Individual Mediator Category

- New York Law Journal Reader Rankings Survey 2016, Top Ten - Best Individual Mediator Category
- New York Law Journal Reader Rankings Survey 2016, Top Ten - Best Individual Arbitrator Category
- New York Law Journal Reader Rankings Survey 2015, Top Ten - Best Individual Mediator Category
- National Law Journal, *2017 Alternative Dispute Resolution Champion*
- National Law Journal, *2016 Alternative Dispute Resolution Champion*
- 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 LICENESES and AFFILIATIONS**

- Courts of the State of New York, 1986

### **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS and ASSOCIATIONS**

- Fmr. Member Puerto Rican Bar Association
- Bronx County Bar Association
- Fmr. Member New York City Trial Lawyers Association
- Fmr. Member New York State Trial Lawyers Association
- Fmr. Board Member, New York County Lawyers Association
- Metropolitan Women's Bar Association
- Fmr. Chairman and Member of the Board of Directors, RAIN Home Attendant Services, Bronx, NY

### **EDUCATION**

- Brooklyn Law School, J.D., 1985
- Baruch College, B.A., Sociology, 1982