



## *Mark D. Gershenson*

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Law Firm	Sole Practitioner
Location	Palm Springs
Practice Areas	Family Law, Civil Litigation, Matrimonial Law, Divorce, Child Custody, Child Support, Spousal Support, Marital Dissolution, Premarital Agreements, Complex Business Litigation, Marital Dissolutions, Domestic Partnership Dissolutions, Post-Judgment Modifications of Support or Custody/Visitation
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Juris Doctorate, Emory University (1979)</li><li>• Bachelor of Arts, Brandeis University (1974)</li></ul>
Date Admitted to California State Bar	1980
First Year ADR Experience	2012
Professional Association Memberships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Member, Los Angeles County Bar Association</li><li>• Member, Desert Bar Association<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Editor, Family Law Section newsletter (1999-2006)</li><li>• Legal Analyst, Family Law Section newsletter (2006-present)</li><li>• Chair, Family Law Section (2006-2007)</li></ul></li><li>• Member, State Bar of California</li><li>• Member, State Bar of Georgia (inactive)</li><li>• Panel member, RCBA Dispute Resolution Service, Inc.</li><li>• Commissioner, Palm Springs International Airport (1994-2001)</li><li>• Temporary Judge, Indio and Hemet Family Law Departments (2003-2009)</li><li>• Member, Family Law Private Mediation Panel, Riverside County Superior Court (2012-present)</li></ul>
Bar Membership(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• State of Georgia (1979)</li><li>• State of California (1980)</li><li>• U.S. District Court, Northern District of Georgia (1980)</li><li>• U.S. District Court, Central District of California (1982)</li><li>• U.S. District Court, Northern District of California (1984)</li><li>• U.S. District Court, Eastern District of California (1990)</li></ul>



### Additional Information

Born and raised in New York City, Mr. Gershenson began his legal career in Los Angeles, where he gained valuable experience working at a large Century City full-service firm, handling a wide variety of sophisticated business and real estate litigation and some family law. He and his wife moved to Palm Springs in 1993, and raised their children here.

Mr. Gershenson has been in sole practice since 1992. The majority of his work for the last approximately 15 years has been in family law, and has included the representation of high net worth clients, professionals and small business owners.

He has successfully mediated both large and small cases, and firmly believes that mediation is almost always preferable, less expensive and much less acrimonious than going to court. He finds that especially true in this era of dramatically reduced funding for our judicial system here in California.

His enthusiasm for mediation stems partially from the fact that it affords litigants the opportunity to reach creative solutions to disputed issues – issues which, if presented to the court at trial, would be adjudicated by the strict application of the law. That often yields a result which neither party likes. He prides himself on his ability to come up with settlement concepts that meet the specific concerns of the parties, and to think outside the proverbial box.

Mediation also gives litigants the chance to fashion the resolution of their dispute, rather than abdicate that responsibility to a stranger who wears a black robe and is employed by the government.

Mr. Gershenson has worked with same-gender couples, and is familiar with many of the issues they face when ending a relationship or contemplating a marriage.

While “shuttle diplomacy” may have worked for Henry Kissinger during the Vietnam War, Mr. Gershenson favors a “no secrets” approach to mediation in which he and the parties (and their attorneys, if they have them) remain together in the same room. In his view, people who can’t or won’t sit together are usually unable to display the flexibility and open-mindedness that are so important to reaching an amicable (although perhaps imperfect) resolution of their divorce or other dispute. He believes that a “rough justice” settlement, which can usually be obtained for a fraction of the cost, stress and delay that is almost always involved in getting a more precise result is usually the preferred goal. As Voltaire wrote, “The perfect is the enemy of the good.”