

Shirley Blazich, Esq.
Blazich Law Group LLC, dba
MEDICAL MALPRACTICE MEDIATORS
8752 Castle Hill Ave. Las Vegas, NV 89129
(702) 499-6780

BAR MEMBERSHIPS

Nevada State Bar, admitted in 2003.
United States District Court for the District of Nevada, admitted in 2004.
United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, admitted in 2016.

EDUCATION

J.D., LOYOLA LAW SCHOOL **May, 2003**
Los Angeles, California

Juris Doctorate law degree. Member of VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance, 2001). Attended Study Abroad in Bologna, Italy, Summer 2001. Member of Byrne Trial Advocacy Team from 2002- 2003 which is ranked among the top 12 trial advocacy programs in the United States. Received extensive training in trial preparation and procedure and argued in final round of Regional Competition that helped the team win first place and secured Loyola a spot at the National Trial Competition in Houston, Texas.

B.A., LOYOLA MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY **May, 1999**
Los Angeles, California

Double major in Philosophy and Psychology
Honors: Psi Chi (Psychology Honor Society, President 1998-99), and Philosophy Honor Society. Activities: Studied Abroad in Rome, Italy, Summer 1997.

EXPERIENCE

MEDIATOR & ARBITRATOR **04/20/2023 - Present**
BLAZICH LAW GROUP LLC, dba
MEDICAL MALPRACTICE MEDIATORS

Nationwide private mediator and arbitrator for complex and high-conflict disputes, including cases involving catastrophic injuries, birth injuries, and abuse and neglect cases. Prior to becoming a neutral I litigated civil cases, primarily professional negligence cases, for 20 years representing both plaintiffs and defendants through all phases of litigation through to trial and appeal. My prior litigation experience allows me to bring a common-sense and creative approach to every dispute. Knowledge of the inner-workings of the healthcare industry allows me to better understand and navigate the unique concerns and issues which occur in professional negligence disputes.

JUDGE PRO TEMPORE

04/2023 – Present

**CLARK COUNTY EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
OFFICE OF ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

Court appointed judge pro tempore primarily handling cases through the Nevada short trial program. Duties include conducting case management conferences and hearings, ruling on motions and discovery disputes, and conducting jury trials as the presiding judge, including ruling on all motions and objections throughout the trial.

ARBITRATOR

10/2017 - Present

**CLARK COUNTY EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
OFFICE OF ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

Court-appointed arbitrator primarily handling cases through the Nevada Court Annexed Arbitration Program. Duties include conducting arbitration hearings, preparing written arbitration decisions, ruling on the legal issues based upon the application of Nevada law to the evidence presented, reviewing party briefs in preparation for arbitration hearings, holding hearings when discovery disputes arise, ruling on discovery disputes, and ruling on objections during arbitration hearings. Post-arbitration hearing work includes reviewing motions and ruling on requests for pre-judgment interest, attorney's fees, and costs within the scope of the Nevada Arbitration Rules, Nevada Rules of Civil Procedure, and Nevada Revised Statutes.

ATTORNEY/ PARTNER

**CLAGGETT & SYKES LAW FIRM
Las Vegas, Nevada**

02/18/2020- 4/17/2023

Plaintiffs side civil litigation with a primary emphasis on professional medical negligence and nursing home abuse and neglect cases. Practice included all phases of litigation, including pre-litigation claims, working with medical experts in preparing complaints with all statutorily required support, motion practice, discovery and depositions, pre-trial and trial work, followed by any necessary post-trial motions and appellate work, and mediation and arbitration of claims.

ATTORNEY/ PARTNER

ALVERSON, TAYLOR, MORTENSEN & SANDERS 10/2003 – 2/14/2020
Las Vegas, Nevada

Defense side civil litigation with a primary emphasis on professional medical negligence and nursing home abuse and neglect cases. Practice areas also included employment discrimination litigation, transactional and contract legal work, and general civil litigation including personal injury, business litigation, and breach of contract claims. Litigation practice included all areas of litigation from initial case assessment and all phases of discovery through resolution/mediation or arbitration/trial. Attended NITA's (National Institute of Trial Advocates) 8-day trial skills seminar and workshop in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida in March, 2007.

MEDICAL MALPRACTICE/ PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY
EXPERIENCE

All phases of pre-litigation, litigation, and appeal in representing both plaintiffs and defendants in medical malpractice/ professional negligence cases and nursing home abuse and neglect cases. Experience includes, but is not limited to, preparation of Complaints, Answers, Counter-claims, Cross-claims, and various responsive pleadings; drafting and responding to written discovery; taking and defending depositions of witnesses, healthcare providers, and expert witnesses; medical record review and analysis; all motion practice and oral argument; expert retention and discovery; settlement and verdict range analysis; settlement negotiations; compliance with applicable statutory and administrative laws and regulations; and liability evaluation through to resolution/mediation or arbitration/trial. Experience representing plaintiffs, physicians, nurses, hospitals, clinics, and physician groups. Additional experience representing nurses and physicians with Nevada State Board of Medical Examiner and Nursing Board complaints, as well as with credentialing and re-credentialing issues and Fair Hearings held by health maintenance organizations and preferred provider organizations.

EMPLOYMENT LAW EXPERIENCE

All phases of pre-litigation, litigation and appeal. Pre-litigation practice included representing clients in Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) claims, responding to Charges of Discrimination, preparing Responsive Position Statements, coaching witnesses for interviews with EEOC Investigators, negotiating during EEOC mediations, and evaluating liability and case value. Litigation practice included representing clients in Federal District Court, conducting discovery, performing all motion practice, appearing for court ordered Early Neutral Evaluations (ENE's), preparation of witnesses for testimony, evaluating liability and case value, handling disputes subject to collective bargaining agreements and conducting educational seminars to human resources departments to ensure compliance with employment laws.

CIVIL LITIGATION EXPERIENCE

All phases of pre-litigation, litigation and appeal in both State and Federal Court in Nevada. Scope of work included representation of plaintiffs and defendants in cases involving real estate disputes, personal injury matters, contract disputes, and business litigation.

TRANSACTIONAL LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Includes contract drafting, execution and negotiation; advising clients on contractual issues and potential liability exposure related to same; interpretation of available insurance coverage in multi-policy, co-insurance and excess insurance situations; and ensuring that contract terms comply with applicable state and federal laws and regulations. Contract experience included business contracts, real estate contracts, employment contracts, settlement agreements, vendor/service agreements, independent contractor agreements, joint defense agreements, confidentiality agreements and covenants not to compete, and commercial instruments.

TRIAL EXPERIENCE

- **McMillan adv. Painter (2006)– Medical Malpractice**
Eighth Judicial District Court for Clark County
- **Archer adv. APL/Chaudhari (2006) – Medical Malpractice**
Eighth Judicial District Court for Clark County
- **Bajo adv. Rella (2006) – Medical Malpractice**
Eighth Judicial District Court
- **Wu adv. LaBar (2014) – Medical Malpractice**
Eighth Judicial District Court
- **St. Rose et al. adv. Baxter (2018) – Medical Malpractice**
Eighth Judicial District Court
- **Underwood v. Mountainview Hospital, et al. (2023) – Medical Malpractice**
Eighth Judicial District Court

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION EXPERIENCE

Extensive experience in all phases of alternative dispute resolution, including the following:

- **Private mediations**
- **Nevada Short Trials**
- **Arbitrations through the Nevada Court Annex Arbitration Program**
- **Early Neutral Evaluations in Federal Court**
- **Informal settlement negotiations and strategies**
- **Mandatory settlement conferences in District Court**
- **Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) mediations**

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

- **State Bar of Nevada – Section of Alternative Dispute Resolution – Chair 2023-2024**
- **Nevada Justice Association - member**
- **Neighborhood Justice Center – mediator**

PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

2012 – Argued before the Nevada Supreme Court and helped to create new law on when the statute of limitations begins to run as a matter of law in a medical malpractice lawsuit. See Winn v. Sunrise Hospital, et al, 277 P.3d 458 (2012)

2012 & 2013 – Selected as a Rising Star for the Mountain States Super Lawyers List

2014 – Selected to Mountain States Super Lawyers List

2015 to present – Rated “AV Preeminent” by Martindale-Hubbell in the areas of Litigation, Medical Malpractice, and Insurance Defense

2015 – Argued before the Nevada Supreme Court regarding the expert affidavit of merit requirement in a medical malpractice lawsuit and whether the affidavit must be “attached” to the Complaint. See Baxter v. St. Rose Hospital, et al, 131 Nev. Adv. Op. 76 (2015)

2015 – Selected as “Nevada Legal Elite” by Nevada Business Magazine

2017 – Appointed to Panel of Arbitrators for the Nevada Court Annex Arbitration Program

2018 – Selected to Mountain States Super Lawyers List

2022 – Mediation Certification 40-hour course

2023 – Appointed Judge Pro Tempore for the Clark County Eighth Judicial District Court

2023 – Elected Chair of the State Bar of Nevada Section of Alternative Dispute Resolution.

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS AND LECTURES

March 14, 2012 – Presentation to the Southern Nevada Claims Association on “Electronic Discovery in Litigation.”

March 20, 2012 – Presentation to the RIMS Risk Management Association on “Electronic Discovery in Litigation.”

February 21, 2013 – Presentation at Alverson, Taylor, Mortensen & Sanders and co-sponsored with the Nevada Women’s Chamber of Commerce on “Avoiding Common Mistakes When Disciplining and/or Terminating Employees.”

April 10, 2013 – Presentation to the Southern Nevada Claims Association on “Navigating the Pitfalls of the Nevada Mandatory Arbitration Program.”

May 14, 2013 – Presentation to the Southern Nevada Human Resources Association on “Compliance with Federal Anti-Discrimination Laws in the Workplace.”

May 28, 2013 – Presentation to the Building Owners and Managers Association on “Conducting Post-Incident Investigations.”

May 6 & 8, 2014 – Presentation at “Nurses Week” at St. Rose Dominican Hospital on “Legal Implications of Electronic Medical Records.”

June 17, 2014 – Presentation to the Employee Services Management Association, Southern Nevada Chapter on “Avoiding Common Mistakes When Disciplining and/or Terminating Employees.”

May 5 & 6, 2015 – Presentation at “Nurses Week” at St. Rose Dominican Hospital on HIPAA Compliance, Patient Rights and Informed Consent.

August 21, 2015 – Presentation on Jury Voir Dire Selection sponsored by the National Business Institute.

December 3, 2016 – Presented Continuing Legal Education Seminar on “Deposition Fundamentals” sponsored by Litigation Services.

May, 2017 – Presentation at “Nurses Week” at St. Rose Dominican Hospital on Chain of Command and Documentation Pitfalls.

May 12, 2017 – Presented Continuing Legal Education Seminar on “Deposition Fundamentals” sponsored by Litigation Services.

October, 2017 – Presented “From Documentation to Deposition” at St. Rose Dominican Hospital to nursing staff

November 15, 2017 – Presented to the Las Vegas Insurance Professionals on Catastrophic Consequences following Spoliation of Evidence.”

June 18, 2019 – Presentation to Nevada Chapter of RIMS on “The Hot Seat: NRC P 30(b)(6) Depositions.”

September 10, 2019 – Presented at the RIMS Western Regional Conference on “Putting Your Best Foot Forward as an Organization” when dealing with the insurance and underwriting process.

December 5, 2022 – Presentation on “Deposition Fundamentals” sponsored by the State Bar of Nevada continuing legal education department.

June 21-23, 2023 – Presentation on “I Object!” evidentiary objections during trial, State Bar of Nevada 2023 Annual Meeting, New York, NY.

September 21, 2023 – Fall, 2022- Spring, 2023 – Teaching a series of 7 continuing education classes for the State Bar of Nevada entitled “Litigation Skills Academy.”

TBA – Presentation on “Medical Malpractice Law A-Z.”

References Available Upon Request