



**Steven T. Aceto, Esq.**

Hourly Rate	\$300
Current	Aceto Law Office, P.A. – Owner
Practice	24
Cases	200
Languages	English

### **Current Employer-Title**

Aceto Law Office, P.A. – Owner

### **Work History**

Aceto Law Office PA (formerly Steven T Aceto PA), 1983 – 1989 & 1996 – Present; Partner, Brock Drye and Aceto PA, 1989 – 1996; Associate, James H. Atkins PA, 1982 – 1983; Adjunct Professor of Business, Mars Hill College, 2004; Law Clerk, Booke & Co (Winston-Salem NC), 1979 – 1982.

### **Experience as a Mediator**

Representative issues include construction disputes involving contractor or subcontractor warranty or payment issues; disputes between owners and pest inspectors; business opportunity franchises; auto accidents; commercial and residential landlord and tenant; title to real property and easements; breach of warranty between real property and business sellers and purchasers; auto repairs; an auto dealer, a customer, and an insurance company as surety on the dealer's bond; delivery and payment for goods. Mediated over 150 mediation/arbitration hearings in a class action by policy holders against a life insurance company. Chaired District Bar Association's attorney fee dispute resolution committee, coordinating a mediation/arbitration process.

### **Representative Issues Handled as a Mediator**

Representative insurance issues include life insurance sales practices, uninsured/underinsured motorist coverage, auto liability policy limits, diminution in value of personal property, surety bonding of title agents. Representative construction issues include EFIS and other exterior siding, delay damages, failure to perform, failure to inspect, owner interference, water damage and site drainage, asphalt paving, and code violations. Real estate issues included lease termination, renewals, repairs, rescission of sales, boundaries and easements, and enforcement of road maintenance agreements, environmental Finding of No Significant Impacts on federal lands. Commercial transaction issues including condition and payment for goods, FTC franchise breach of performance and disclosure obligations.

### **Years of Practice as a Mediator**

24

### **Total Number of Cases Mediated**

200

## **Mediation Experience as an Advocate or Party**

Party representative experience includes auto dealer against insurer on a business interruption policy, auto dealer against customer on vehicle damage history and representations on the title certificate, owners and contractors in residential construction claims, and executors and trustees in estate administration claims.

## **Mediation Philosophy**

Mediation is a problem solving process that works best by appealing to the ingenuity and intellect of the participants. Mediation works because it puts together in one place the people who know the problem best and collectively have the knowledge and power to solve it. My role as a mediator is to properly discern the issues that each participant brings to the mediation table, provide focus on the right problem at the right time, give each participant a constructive voice, and facilitate offers and counteroffers fairly and expeditiously. My role is also to protect the process by efficient administration and high standards of ethical conduct in regards to confidentiality, conflicts of interest, and deference to the parties in giving them the opportunity to arrive at a solution of their own choosing. In turn I expect participants to engage in the mediation process as problem solvers rather than simply as aggrieved persons or partisan advocates, and to treat one another with deference, dignity, and respect.

## **Mediation References**

William Clarke, bclarke@roberts-stevens.com, (828) 252-6600; C.C. "Kip" Marshall Jr., cmarshall@marshallroth.com, (828) 281-2100.

## **Alternative Dispute Resolution Training**

ACE 22 - Process Essentials for AAA Arbitrators, 2022; ACE21 Impartiality: Do You Know Where Your Biases Are? 2021; ACE20 Cyber Security: A Shared Responsibility, 2020; AAA ACE19 Case Finances: What Arbitrators Need to Know, 2019; ACE18 Arbitrator Performance and Demeanor ~ Meeting Participant Expectations, 2018; Developments in Arbitration Law: Practice Focused Cases, 2017; Out of Sight, Out of Mind: What You Need to Know about Preventing and Arbitrating Business-to-Business ("B2B") Data Breaches, 2017; AAA Protecting Your Award from Appellate Challenge, 2016; AAA The Nuts and Bolts of an Arbitration Hearing: Procedure Evidence and Practicalities, 2016; AAA The New Emergency Relief Arbitration Rules - The Death Knell for Court-Ordered Injunctions Pending Arbitration?, 2016; AAA Panel Dynamics: Staying On Course When Things Don't Go As Planned, 2015; AAA Getting it Right: Secrets to Writing Better Construction Awards 2015; AAA Developments in Arbitration Law: Testing the Boundaries of Court Intervention, 2015; AAA The Extent or Limit of Mediator Influence to Effect Settlement, 2015; AAA Making the Most of Med-Arb: Best Practices for Neutrals, 2015; AAA Optimize Your Arbitration! Understanding the Role of the Proactive Arbitrator, 2014; AAA Arbitration in IP/Technology Disputes, 2013; AAA Recovery of Legal Fees and Costs in Arbitration: The What, When, Where, Why and How, 2013; AAA Developments In Arbitration Law: Disclosure, Vacatur, Sanctions, and Arbitrator Authority, 2013; AAA Maximizing Efficiency & Economy in Arbitration: Challenges at the Preliminary Hearing, 2012; AAA Lien on Me: Construction Lien Issues in Arbitration, 2011; AAA Advanced Mediator Training, 2010; AAA How to Prevent Arbitrations from Transforming into Litigations, 2009; AAA Electronic Discovery in Arbitration: What You Need to Know, 2009; Superior Court Clerk Mediator Training, 2009; AAA Ensuring That Your Clients' Interests are Addressed in Mediation, 2008; AAA Arbitration Roadmap: The Standard for Efficient and Cost Effective Arbitration, 2008; AAA Dealing With Delay Tactics in Arbitration ACE04, 2007; AAA Pro Se: Managing Cases Involving Self-Represented Parties ACE02, 2006; AAA Chairing an Arbitration Panel: Managing Procedures, Process & Dynamics ACE05, 2005; AAA Arbitrator Ethics & Disclosure ACE03, 2004; AAA Arbitration Awards: Safeguarding, Deciding & Writing Awards ACE01, 2003; AAA Arbitrator Update 2001; AAA Construction Industry Arbitrator II Training: Advanced Case Management Issues, 2001; North Carolina Bar, Mediating Monetary Disputes, 2001; AAA Sponsored Training for Prudential Mass Claims ADR Project, 1998; North Carolina Institute of Government, School Budget Dispute Mediation Seminar, 1997; American Bar Association, Dispute Resolution Section, Mediation/Arbitration Seminar, 1997; AAA Construction Arbitrator Training, 1997; Mecklenburg Bar, Federal Mediation Seminar, 1996; Superior Court Mediator Training, 1995; Dispute Management Inc., Mediator Training for Court Mediated Settlement Conferences in North Carolina, 1995; AAA Introductory Arbitrator Training

## **Professional Licenses**

Admitted to the Bar: North Carolina, 1982; U.S. District Court: Western District of North Carolina, 1982.  
Certified Superior Court Mediator: North Carolina DRC, 1996. Certified Superior Court Clerk Mediator: North Carolina DRC, 2009

## **Professional Associations**

North Carolina Bar Association; Judicial District Bar Association. Chaired the NC Bar Association/NC Association of Realtors Joint Forms Task Force developing and revising standardized real property transaction forms for statewide use by Realtors and attorneys. Chaired NC Bar Association Real Property Section Council Ad Hoc Forms Committee developing and revising standardized

residential and commercial real property transaction contracts and forms for statewide use by attorneys. Served as member of Commercial Realtors Alliance committee developing and revising standardized commercial real estate transaction forms for statewide use by Realtors and attorneys. Served on 28th Judicial District Bar Nominating Committee and Executive Committee and chaired 28th Judicial District Bar Fee Dispute Resolution Committee. Chaired a committee evaluating proposed District Court civil case arbitration for the Chief District Court Judge.

### **Education**

Wake Forest University (JD-1982); University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (BA-1977).

### **Publications and Speaking Engagements**

#### Publications:

Presented paper to University of Dhaka, Management Studies Department, Dhaka, Bangladesh, "What to do on the Way to the Law Courts; Business Ethics and Alternative Dispute Resolution," October 2002, comparing the Koran and current Islamic ADR practices to current Western ADR practices.

#### Speaking Engagements:

Delivered presentations and advocated on behalf of nongovernmental organizations for continuing and expanding US government and private humanitarian aid to North Korea to officials of the US State and Commerce Departments and to Congressional staff on several occasions.

### **Compensation**

\$300 Per Hour

### **Languages**

English

### **Citizenship**

United States of America

### **Locale**

Montreat, NC

The AAA provides mediators to parties on cases administered by the AAA under AAA mediation procedures. Mediations that proceed without AAA administration are not considered AAA mediations, even where parties select a mediator who is a member of an AAA mediation roster.