

United States District Court

Northern District of California
ADR PROGRAM

The ADR Program of the Northern District of California

is pleased to present

Settling Non-Class Action Cases Involving Financial Institutions

**Thursday, May 27
San Francisco Courthouse
450 Golden Gate Avenue, 16th Floor
Courtroom 19
12:00 – 1:30 pm**

As the country struggles to climb out of the worst recession since the 1930's, the court has seen a marked increase in cases brought by individuals against financial institutions. Many of these cases are being referred to mediation and ENE, with mixed success.

Join experienced neutrals Gilda Turitz, Daniel Sharp, and Arthur Levy in a conversation about the nature of these difficult cases and what a neutral might do to assist the parties. Topics will include:

- how to unpack the various claims usually pleaded,
- identifying the proper parties,
- grappling with attendance issues, and
- developing strategies for potential resolution.

Our panelists' biographies follow this announcement.

This activity qualifies for 1 hour of general MCLE credit. Unfortunately, we do not have the funds to provide food or drinks for this program. Please feel free to bring your own lunch.

RSVP by simply clicking "Reply" to this email. We look forward to seeing you!

Panelist Biographies

Arthur D. Levy

Arthur Levy is a plaintiff's consumer rights lawyer. His practice emphasizes insurance and financial services class actions. He has successfully tried and settled large-scale actions against Mercury Insurance, Auto Insurance Specialists, Bank of America, Xerox, and IKON. His secondary practice areas include historic resource defense, business-to-business dispute resolution, and litigation management consulting. His *pro bono* practice includes *amicus curiae* briefs for non-profit organizations, including the National Consumer Law Center, Consumers Union, and the California Reinvestment Coalition. He has also provided *pro bono* legal representation to historic preservation organizations such as Oakland Heritage Alliance, the Friends of 1800, and the California Preservation Foundation. A member of the National Consumer Law Center Partners Council, he also serves on the Board of Directors of Housing and Economic Rights Advocates. He is a graduate of Reed College and Boalt Hall, where he served on the California Law Review and was a member of the Order of the Coif. He also holds an M.A. in economics from The Johns Hopkins University. Mr. Levy has been a member of the Court's Mediation and ENE panels since 1994.

J. Daniel Sharp

J. Daniel Sharp is a partner in the San Francisco office of Crowell & Moring LLP and a member of the firm's Litigation Group. He practices in several specialized fields, including professional liability, real estate and financing. Prior to joining Crowell & Moring, Mr. Sharp was a partner with the San Francisco firm of Folger Levin & Kahn LLP. He joined that firm after clerkships with Judge John T. Noonan, Jr., of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and Judge Charles A. Legge, of the United States District Court for the Northern District of California. He is a graduate of the University of Virginia and Hastings College of the Law, where he was a member of the Order of the Coif and Editor-in-Chief of *The Hastings Law Journal*. He has been a member of the Court's Mediation panel since 2006.

Gilda Turitz

Gilda R. Turitz is the Litigation Practice Group Leader in the San Francisco firm of Sideman & Bancroft LLP which she joined in 1998, after practicing with Graham & James LLP for 17 years. Her practice focus is on business and complex commercial cases in federal and state court and in arbitration forums. She has been listed as a Northern California Super Lawyer for business litigation since 2004 and was also recognized as a Best Lawyer in the Bay Area in 2005. Ms. Turitz has been a mediator since 1995 and frequently mediates cases involving financial institutions in the Court's ADR program. She also has served on the Court's ENE panel since 1996. Ms. Turitz graduated Order of the Coif from the University of California, Davis, School of Law in 1980.