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Signature Resolution Welcomes RE Pro To Panel Of Neutrals

By Faith Williams

Law360 (December 4, 2023, 10:13 PM EST) -- California-based Signature Resolution added a real estate professional with 30 years of experience to the firm's panel of neutrals, the firm announced Friday.

Robert J. Sunderland comes from the firm he founded in 2000, Sunderland McCutchan LLP, which focused on real estate law, defending professionals and championing over 3,000 real estate licenses, according to the statement. In his new role as a mediator, he will contribute to Signature's growth while using his experience to assist in mediation.

"Embarking on this journey with Signature Resolution is an exciting milestone for me," Sunderland said in a statement. "I eagerly anticipate leveraging my skills and experiences to foster fair and effective dispute resolution. With a commitment to managing a substantial volume of cases, I look forward to playing a pivotal role in the ongoing growth and success of the firm."

Sunderland's professional experience includes being a general contractor in custom residential home construction in Los Angeles, which he uses to offer clients a dual perspective on real estate contracting and financing, according to the statement.

Sunderland told Law360 on Monday while litigating for 27 years, he worked on pretty much any real estate matter including transaction disputes, nondisclosure, quiet title issues and business litigation. He said he always had his sights set on mediating real estate disputes while working as general counsel for Trans-Pacific Geothermal Corp.

He said he learned to evaluate a case effectively and properly and work toward resolution because every case couldn't go to court.

"I quickly became known as the guy that could get cases resolved," Sunderland told Law360. "A file would come in, I would evaluate those numbers. Historically, they were accurate, and I was pretty much resolving cases from the day I hit the ground."

Sunderland has also served as a mediator for the San Diego Superior Court Panel, West Coast Resolution Group, San Diego Association of Realtors, and the Riverside County First Friday Voluntary Settlement Conference Panel.

"I'm not necessarily the attorney that finds fault in everything," he said Monday. "I'm the type to say, 'Where is the solution, how do we resolve this?' I long ago learned through litigation that in my

experience human beings far prefer to make their own decisions than have someone else tell them what to do."

Sunderland earned a bachelor of science from Pepperdine University and a law degree from Southwestern University School of Law.

"We are delighted to announce the addition of Robert Sunderland to the Signature Resolution team," Dario Higuchi, founding partner and managing member of Signature said in a statement. "His extensive background in real estate law and mediation, coupled with a successful career as a general contractor brings a wealth of knowledge to our panel of neutrals."

Signature's panel of neutrals, founded in 2017, is composed of judges and trial attorneys providing service to attorneys and their clients for every civil practice area. The firm has offices in Los Angeles, Century City, San Diego and Oakland.

--Editing by Jay Jackson Jr.

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