



SUSAN HERNANDEZ, ESQ.

Former Chief of Staff to Presiding Justice, Appellate Division, 1st. Dept., Mediator, Bronx

Susan Hernandez is a strong proponent of Alternative Dispute Resolution and brings her experience as the former Mediation Coordinator in the Supreme Court, Bronx County to NAM's NY Metro panel of neutrals. She was voted one of the Top Ten Mediators in New York State in the "Best Individual Mediator" category by the 2015 New York Law Journal Reader Rankings Survey and was also named a National Law Journal 2016 Alternative Dispute Resolution Champion. Ms. Hernandez was the recipient of the 2015 "Mediator of the Year Award" by the Institute of Jewish Humanities.



In 2012, Ms. Hernandez was appointed to spearhead the Mediation Pilot Program in Bronx Supreme Court, administered by the Appellate Division, First Dept. and the Bronx County Supreme Court. As the Mediation Coordinator, she conferenced and mediated multiple cases each day and has resolved and/or disposed of well over 1,000 cases. Her mediation experience includes all

types of cases ranging from smaller value cases to multi-million dollar disputes. In addition to personal injury cases, she has experience mediating disputes involving real property/partition, contracts, employment, discrimination, and sexual harassment matters. Ms. Hernandez approaches each case with a view towards resolution. In addition to mediating and conferencing cases, she was responsible for training and assisting the Court Attorneys in the conferencing and settlement of Supreme Court cases.

Prior to her appointment to the Mediation Pilot Program, Ms. Hernandez served as the Chief of Staff to the Presiding Justice of the Supreme Court, Bronx County. As the assistant to the presiding justice, she assisted with all administrative issues that were before the judge and coordinated all office and judicial activities. She also supervised the staff of the presiding justice and assisted in the coordination and staffing of the Court.

As a litigator in private practice prior to her Court appointments, Ms. Hernandez handled personal injury matters from inception to trial. Ms. Hernandez was the managing attorney and/or partner of several firms and handled all phases of litigation, including the negotiation and resolution of the matters on behalf of the respective firm's clients.

AREAS of EXPERTISE

- Elder Care
- Labor Law
- Legal Malpractice
- Medical Malpractice
- Negligence
- Personal Injury

- Premises Liability
- Torts & Product Liability

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

- Mediator Coordinator, Supreme Court of the State of New York, Bronx County. (2012)
- Chief of Staff to Presiding Justice Hon. Luis A. Gonzalez, Appellate Division, 1st Dept. (2010)
- Founding Partner, Susan Hernandez, P.C. (1995)
- Partner, Burns & Hernandez, Esqs. (1988)
- Managing Attorney, Copeland & Tillem, Esqs. (1986)

PROFESSIONAL LICENSES

- Courts of the State of New York (1986)

EDUCATION

- Brooklyn Law School, J.D., 1985
- Baruch College, B.A., Sociology, 1982

HONORS and AWARDS

- National Law Journal, *2016 Alternative Dispute Resolution Champion*
- Mediator of the Year Award, Institute of the Jewish Humanities (2015)
- New York Law Journal Reader Rankings Survey 2015. Top Ten- Best Individual Mediator Category
- President's Award, Bronx County Bar Association (2013)
- Distinguished Achievement in the Law Award, Puerto Rican Bar Association (1997)

MEMBERSHIPS and PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

- Fmr. Member Puerto Rican Bar Association
- Bronx County Bar Association
- Fmr. Member New York City Trial Lawyers Association
- Fmr. Member New York State Trial Lawyers Association
- Fmr. Board Member, New York County Lawyers Association
- Metropolitan Women's Bar Association
- Fmr. Chairman and Member of the Board of Directors, RAIN Home Attendant Services, Bronx, NY