

JANET W. BEHNKE
500 N.E. Eighth Avenue
Ocala, Florida 34470-5345
P.O. Box 1237
Ocala, Florida 34478-1237
Phone (352) 732-6464
Fax (352) 867-5111
janet@behnelaw.net
www.behnelaw.net

JANET W. BEHNKE has been a certified circuit court mediator and a federal court mediator since 1993. She has mediated cases in county, circuit and federal district court, as well as administrative matters and cases not yet in litigation. Her mediation cases include torts, real property, contracts, construction, eminent domain, commercial, probate, employment and education cases. She also has been a certified family mediator since 1995 and a certified mediator for Florida's Fifth District Court of Appeal since 2004.

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

As an attorney she has represented clients before the Florida Commission on Human Relations, the Florida Division of Administrative Hearings, the Florida Public Employees Relations Commission, the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation, in various circuit courts across Florida, Florida's First and Fifth District Courts of Appeal, the Supreme Court of Florida and the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida.

AREAS OF PRACTICE

Forty-seven years in private practice in Ocala plus service as a county judge, with substantial experience in both transactional law and litigation in most areas of civil law.

FAMILY LAW

Extensive experience in dissolution of marriage, modification and enforcement actions, both in settlement and in highly contested matters including questions of equitable distribution and support, parental responsibility, parenting time and time sharing, as well as experience in paternity actions and name changes.

REAL PROPERTY AND PROBATE LAW

Extensive experience in the practice of real property law, both in examining title, negotiating and closing complex real property transactions and in real property litigation, including eminent domain, partition, quiet title, and in probate of decedent's estates.

CONSTRUCTION LAW

Substantial past experience in construction law including representation of owners, contractors and sureties in both transactional law and litigation, including multi-million dollar, multi-party claims and litigation.

COMMERCIAL LAW

Past experience as general counsel to a local bank and in sales and secured transactions and commercial collections.

EMPLOYMENT LAW

Past experience in employment discrimination complaints and in claims and disputes arising under employment contracts.

EDUCATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

Past experience in public and administrative law, with more than 10 years' experience in education law.

OTHER AREAS OF EXPERIENCE

Past experience in other areas including corporate and business law and tort law.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

1967 BSJM UF School of Journalism and Communications with Major in Public Relations

1971 J.D. University of Florida College of Law

1994 Florida Judicial College

MEDIATION TRAINING

1993 Stetson University College of Law "Circuit Civil Mediation"

1995 Dispute Management, Inc. "Family Mediation Training"

1996 Conflict Management, Inc. (Associated with the Harvard Negotiation Project)
"Getting to Yes"™ Negotiation Workshop"

1999 Justice Center of Atlanta "Mediation in Special Education"

2001 Eighth Judicial Circuit of Florida Criminal Mediation Program (Pilot Project)

2004 Fifth District Court of Appeal of Florida Appellate Mediation Training Session

RECOGNITION AND AWARDS

AV rating from Martindale-Hubbell

Recipient of the **2008 and 2017 Richard D. Custureri Pro Bono Service Award** for outstanding, dedicated and generous contribution of time and professional skills in the provision of legal services for the indigent citizens of Marion County, Florida, presented by Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida.

Selected one of Marion County's Ten Most Influential Women by the Ocala Star-Banner, 1987

Recognized for Distinguished Service to the Florida School Board Attorneys' Association, 1995

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

An ability to help people reach common ground on a variety of issues and agendas, developed through leadership roles in many professional and civic organizations.

Florida School Board Attorneys' Association President, 1992

The Florida Chamber of Commerce Executive Committee, 1985-1986, 1990-1991

Board of Directors, 1983-1991

Florida Education and Industry Coalition, 1986-1994

The Florida Chamber of Commerce Foundation Board of Trustees, 1989-1994

Ocala/Marion County Chamber of Commerce President, 1981;

Leadership Ocala Board of Regents Chairperson, 1987-1989 (Founding Chair)

Heart of Florida Girl Scout Council, Assistant Leader 1992-1995

Leader 1995 to 2000

(Outstanding Leader, Winner's Circle Service Unit 1997-1998)

Marion County Take Stock In Children

Mentor, 1997-2003

Leadership Council, 1997-2003

Marion County Bar Association President, 1980

Master, D.R. Smith American Inn of Court, 1999-2002, 2007-2012, 2014-2015, 2017-2018,
2019-present

OTHER PUBLIC SERVICE

Member, Florida Board of Bar Examiners, 2002 - 2007

Emeritus, 2007-

County Court Judge, Marion County, Florida, 1994-1995

Member, Florida Department of Education, State Advisory Committee for the Education of
Exceptional Students, 1992-1994

Member, Florida Pari-Mutuel Commission, 1991-1992

Member, Governor's Transition Task Force on Transportation; Chair, Right of Way
and Corridor Protection Subcommittee, 1991