



Soheila S. Azizi

## **Soheila S. Azizi, J.D.**

### **Attorney at Law**

AWARD WINNING MEDIATOR

Certified Online Dispute Resolution Professional

Civil, Probate & Family Law

Mediation and Arbitration Collaborative Divorce Professional

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(Lorenzo Colunga, Case Manager: [Lorenzo@azizilaw.com](mailto:Lorenzo@azizilaw.com))

### **ODR/ADR PHILOSOPHY & APPROACH**

- A champion in promoting justice through innovative solutions to most challenging disputes by combining education, training and experience as a family law and civil litigation trial attorney, mediator, arbitrator, collaborative conflict resolution professional, temporary judge, minor's counsel, and certified family law specialist courses, with masterful application of diverse mediation techniques and styles, including collaborative, evaluative, facilitative, and transformative approaches to mediation
- Professionally trained at top-rated institutions including Pepperdine University's STRAUS Institute for Dispute Resolution's STAR and Professional Skills Programs for over two decades, and well-versed in negotiation styles, and conflict resolution strategies and techniques, founded on a rich tapestry of multi-faith, multi-cultural, multi-ethnicity heritage, and hands-on experience with handling sensitive positionings and orientations of nearly two thousand conflicted individuals and entities

### **Qualifications & Skills**

- Vast business and professional experience resulting from twenty six years (since 1994) of conducting business as a Founder, Manager, Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer, Marketing Director, and Senior Associate Attorney at my successful law practice in the areas of Civil/Business Litigation, Immigration, Family Law, Medical Malpractice, Serious Personal Injury and Wrongful Death, Mediation and Arbitration, in both Los Angeles and Inland Empire Counties;

- Broad scope of social, religious and cultural experiences having served as a certified Temporary Judge, Mediator and Arbitrator in private conflict resolution outlets, as well as on various County Bar ADR services and Superior Court panels in Los Angeles, San Bernardino and Riverside Counties (since 1998), in addition to providing services as a private and court appointed mediator in Superior Courts in Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Riverside and Orange Counties.
- Longstanding and diligent service on the executive and administrative bodies/agencies of local/national religious, philanthropic, nonprofit/public benefit and social service organizations
- Diverse educational experience earned through Adjunct teaching opportunities, direct and indirect involvement with youth and child educational, character and leadership development, and mentoring programs, after-school educational and mentoring programs and workshops focused on young girls and women empowerment, as well as through the design, development, implementation, and supervision of legal self-help and family court triage program and training material, providing access to courts for public by developing manuals, easy-to-follow instructions and forms currently used by ODR/ADR programs in courts and private outlets
- Extended problem solving, negotiation, and communicative skills, with profound insight and acquired knowledge and training into many cultural, social, traditional, religious, ethnic, gender and ethical sensitivities, relating to foreign populations and immigrants with unique and compassionate understanding of sensitive orientations specific to various cultures, ethnicities, gender, faiths and traditions, behaviors, habits and tendencies.
- Unparalleled patience and compassion, derived from an innate sense of empathy, and training in the Eastern philosophies and approaches to conflict resolution, mysticism, and a rich commitment to peaceful resolution of conflicts, intensified by first hand personal experience with oppression, violence, injustice and human suffering.

## **Litigation and Law Practice History**

1993 to Present

### ***Law Offices of Soheila Azizi & Associates, P.C.***

Private Practice: Civil Litigation with emphasis on areas of Medical and Professional Malpractice, Civil Litigation, Family Law, Probate, Conflict Resolution

1993 to 1997

### ***Law offices of Abbas Hadjian & Associates***

Civil Litigation Practice with emphasis on Personal Injury, Immigration Law and Business Litigation)

1992 to 1993 ***San Bernardino District Attorney's Office***  
Certified Law Clerk/Intern, conducting Preliminary Hearings and Research

1992 to 1993 ***Riverside Public Defender's Office***  
Certified Law Clerk/Intern, representing Defendants on non-felony charges

### **Judicial, Administrative and Dispute Resolution History**

1998 to Present Serving as Temporary Judge and Settlement Officer in San Bernardino County Superior Courts in areas of Family Law, DA Child Support, and Small Claims

2000 to Present Arbitrator including for State and County Bars' Mandatory Fee Arbitration Programs

2006 to 2008 Settlement Officer, CRASH Settlement Program, Los Angeles County

2007 to Present Temporary Judge Judicial training & Certification in Bench Conduct Demeanor

2008 to 2012 ***IVJC (Thereafter known as CEDRS)***  
Mediator and Arbitrator, MCLE and Mediator Training Courses' Co-Presenter

2011 to Present ***California Arbitration & Mediation Services (C.A.M.S.)***  
Co-Founder, Board President and Panelist, a private and previously a nonprofit Mediation and Arbitration practice for Civil, Probate and Family Law cases

2010 to 2011 ***R.D.O.C.S. ADR Services (predecessor of C.A.M.S.)***  
Co-Founder, Owner & Panelist

2006 to 2009 ***IVAMS (Inland Valley Arbitration & Mediation Services)***  
Mediator and Arbitrator, MCLE Co-Presenter

1994 to 1998 Television Legal Talk Show Co-Host, International Chanel 18

1994 to Present Television & Radio Talk Show guest speaker, Host and Co-Host, addressing Legal, Educational, Cultural, ADR & Social Justice Issues

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| 2007 to Present<br>Panelist                       | First Resolution Services, Inc., Mediation and Arbitration   |
| 2009 to Present                                   | <b><i>IVJC (Currently Known as CEDRS)</i></b><br>Supervising Mediation Panelist & Court ADR Liaison  |
| 2010 to 2011                                      | San Bernardino County Court ADR Program:<br>“Triage Program” Developer and Presenter for <b><i>IVJC</i></b>  |
| 2010 to Present<br>Court                          | Civil and Family Law Mediation Panels, Riverside Superior  |
| 2010 to Present<br>Services,                      | Civil, Probate, and Family Law Mediator, Dispute Resolution<br>Riverside County Bar Association  |
| 2011 to Present                                   | University of La Verne College of Law ADR Symposium,<br>Co-Sponsor and Participant   |
| 1984 to Present<br>Consultative/Executive Body of | Active Member on the Administrative and<br>Local Spiritual Assembly of Baha’is of United States  |
| 2011 to Present                                   | Elected Delegate to National Baha’i Convention for Electoral Unit<br>consisting of about 19 local communities, assemblies and groups   |
| 1993 to Present                                   | <b><i>Law Offices of Soheila Azizi &amp; Associates, P.C.</i></b><br>Private Practice: Civil Litigation with emphasis on areas of Medical<br>and Professional Malpractice, Business, Civil Litigation, Estate<br>Planning and Probate, Family Law, Limited Criminal and Immigration<br>Law Practice, ODR/ADR |
| 1993 to 1997                                      | <b><i>Law offices of Abbas Hadjian &amp; Associates</i></b><br>Civil Litigation Practice with emphasis on Personal Injury, Medical<br>and Professional Malpractice, Immigration Law, Civil and Business<br>Litigation  |
| 1992 to 1993                                      | <b><i>San Bernardino District Attorney’s Office</i></b><br>Certified Law Clerk/Intern, conducting Preliminary Hearings and<br>Research   |
| 1992 to 1993                                      | <b><i>Riverside Public Defender’s Office</i></b><br>Certified Law Clerk/Intern, representing Defendants on non-felony<br>charges   |

## Educational, Academic and Teaching History

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|-----------------|---|
| 2006 to 2007    | University of La Verne College of Law<br>Adjunct Professor of Law, Immigration and Refugee Policies   |
| 2004 to 2008    | Guest Lecturer: SCMA<br>Continuing Medical Education Courses for Physicians<br>Co-Lecturer on Transformative Mediation<br>Co-Lecturer: <b>IVAMS</b> on Legal Ethics |
| 2012            | Guest Lecturer: Cal. State University, San Bernardino:<br>The China Program—American Law and Culture  |
| 2013            | Guest Lecturer: Chapman University, Fullerton School of Law:<br>Negotiation Course for Arab students  |
| 2016            | Advanced Family Law Seminar, San Bernardino   |
| 2010 to Present | Presenter:<br>Workshops on various issues including legal subjects, Dispute Resolution alternatives to litigation, youth development and girl/women empowerment     |

## Education and Formal Training

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| 1976 to 1979    | National University, Tehran, Iran, Undergraduate Studies Towards a <i>Bachelor of Arts</i> in Economics (interrupted by Iranian Revolution & closure of the University)  |
| 1979            | Hofstra University, Hempstead, New York, <i>Bachelor of Arts</i> , Economics   |
| 1980            | Courses in Urban Economics (towards a Masters in Urban Economics)  |
| 1981            | UCLA Extension Courses   |
| 1983            | AA in Design and Merchandising   |
| 1993            | University of La Verne, School of Law, <i>Juris Doctorate</i><br>Member of Law Review, Journal of Juvenile Law<br>Dean of Delta Theta Phi International Law Fraternity   |
| 1993 to Present | Continuing Legal Education Courses, Advanced Family Law Courses, State and County Bar Judicial Training for Small Claims and Superior Courts Temporary Judges including Civil Harassment, Mandatory Fee Arbitration training; Mediation Training |

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| 2006                 | Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution, Pepperdine University:<br>Advanced Family Mediation Skills                                |
| 2007                 | Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution, Pepperdine University:<br>A Systematic Approach to Mediation Strategies (STAR)            |
| 2007                 | IVAMS: Commercial Alternative Dispute Resolution   |
| 2007 to Present<br>& | Judicial Conduct & Ethics, Bench Conduct & Demeanor training<br>Certification (& Re-Certification)                                 |
| 2009                 | CFLR Advanced Family Law Preparation Course for Certified Family<br>Law Specialist Exam (45 Hours)                                 |
| 2009                 | Minors' Counsel Training   |
| 2010                 | Collaborative Divorce Team Training (24 Hours)   |
| 2010                 | Inland Valleys Justice Center Mediation Training:<br>Mediating the Litigated Case  |
| 2011                 | Inland Valleys Justice Center Mediation Training:<br>40 Hour Mediation Course Co-Presenter to Mediation in Litigation              |
| 2011                 | University of La Verne, College of Law ADR Symposium:<br>Co-Sponsor and Participant  |
| 2012                 | Center for Understanding in Mediation (Provided by Riverside<br>Superior Court):<br>32 Hour Advanced Family Law Mediation Training |
| 2012<br>Sponsor      | University of La Verne, College of Law §1983 Civil Rights Symposium:   |
| 2012                 | Inland Valleys Justice Center Mediation Training   |
| 2013<br>Impasse      | Dispute Resolution Services: The Difficult Party & Overcoming  |
| 2014                 | University of La Verne, College of Law "Cause Lawyering" Symposium:<br>Co-Sponsor and Participant                                  |
| 2014<br>Participant  | Dynamic Consultation Full Day Workshop: Conflict to Consensus:   |
| 2014                 | Collaborative Divorce Professionals (CDPIE): 18 Hour Intermediate  |

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|                 | Mediation Training with Forrest Woody Mosten   |
| 2015            | Cultural Competency in Family Law Practice (6 Hours)   |
| 2017            | Collaborative Divorce Professionals (CDPIE) 3 Hour Training with Forrest Woody Mosten  |
| 2017 to Present | Formal Training for Temporary Judges Offered by Judicial Council of CA, and Mandatory Continuing Legal Education Courses as Required by CA State Bar |
| 2020            | Mediate.Com: 20 hour On-line Family Mediation Training & On-line Certification   |

### **Selected Lectures, Presentations and Workshops**

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| 2004        | Guest Lecturer for Continuing Medical Education Courses for Physicians  |
| 2006        | Co-Lecturer on Transformative Mediation, SCMA   |
| 2010        | Panel Speaker, University of La Verne ADR   |
| 2010        | Guest Lecturer: Loma Linda University Graduate School of Psychology: Family Law Mediation   |
| 2011 & 2013 | Guest Speaker: Baha'i Information Center, Rancho Cucamonga, CA Justice; a Baha'i Perspective  |
| 2012        | Guest Lecturer: Cal. State University, San Bernardino: The China Program-American Law and Culture   |
| 2014        | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Annual Student Multi-faith Leadership Conference: Presenter on Interfaith experience and challenges<br>Summer Series on Interfaith : Conversation With Interfaith Leaders |
| 2014        | Presenter on Elder Issues: Kiwanis Club, Rancho Cucamonga   |
| 2014        | Panel Presenter on Domestic Violence Issues: Gender Equality Conference,<br>University of La Verne, La Verne, California  |
| 2015        | Co-Presenter: Inland Valley Interfaith Network at Parliament of World Religions in Salt lake City   |

2019 Panel Presenter on Confronting Domestic Violence: Legal Ramifications and Advocacy, University of La Verne, College of Law, Ontario, California

2008 to Present Organization & Public Presentation of Campaigns on Human Rights Violations:  
 Letter Writing Campaign for Religious Persecution Victims, “The Yaran!”  
 “Education Under Fire” Campaign and Film Screening at University of La Verne  
 “Five Years Too Many!” Campaign Against Religious Persecution

### **Social and Professional Affiliations**

1993 to Present California State Bar, Active Member

1993 to Present San Bernardino County Bar Association, Active Member

1993 to Present Western San Bernardino County Bar Association, Active Member

1993 to Present Riverside County Bar Association, Active Member

1993 to Present Iranian American Lawyers Association

1989 to Present Delta Theta Phi International Law Fraternity

1993 to Present Board Member of Upland Spiritual Assembly (administrative, consultative, community building & dispute resolution duties)

1995 to Present Past President and Co-Founder of Upland Interfaith Council

2000 to 2012 Consumer Attorney’s Association of Los Angeles

2005 to 2012 Board Member, Community Partnership for Youth Development

2010 to Present Collaborative Divorce Professionals of Inland Empire (CDPIE), Active Member

2005 to Present Directory Member of Mediate.Com

2005 to Present Co-Founder & Board Member/Officer of “Women on the Move Network”

2009 to Present University of La Verne, College of Law’s Choice for “Great Lawyers”



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|                             | Campaign   |
| 2009 to Present             | University of La Verne, Law Review Alumni Association  |
| 2011 to Present<br>Symposia | Co-Sponsor to University of La Verne College of Law ADR  |
| 2008 to Present             | University of La Verne, College of Law, Board of Visitors  |
| 1998 to Present             | County of San Bernardino, Judicial and Settlement Officer: Small Claims Courts, Family Law and Child Support Courts, Mediation of Family Law, Medical Malpractice, Real Estate, Contract, Business and Complex Civil Cases; Arbitrator: County and State Fee Dispute Arbitration |
| 2010 to Present             | <i>Riverside County Bar Association</i> , Civil and Family Law Mediation Panels  |
| 2010 to Present             | <i>Dispute Resolution Services (DRS)</i> , Riverside County Civil and Family Law Panel   |
| 2007 to Present             | <i>First Resolution Services, Inc.</i> , Panelist  |
| 2007 to 2010                | <i>IVAMS (Inland Valley Arbitration and Mediation Services)</i> , Panelist   |
| 2010 to 2012                | San Bernardino Court “Triage Program” Developer and Presenter for County Contractor, <i>IVJC (Inland Valley Justice Center)</i>  |
| 2010 to 2012                | Supervising Panelist for <i>IVJC (Inland Valley Justice Center)</i>  |
| 2010 to 2011                | <b><i>R.D.O.C.S. ADR Services (predecessor of C.A.M.S.)</i></b><br>Co-Founder, Owner and Panelist  |
| 2011 to Present             | <b><i>California Arbitration &amp; Mediation Services (C.A.M.S)</i></b><br>Co-Founder, Board President and Panelist<br>Private and nonprofit Mediation and Arbitration practice for Civil, Probate and Family Law cases  |
| 2014                        | Restorative Justice Training & Workshop  |
| 2014 to Present             | <b><i>Iranian American Women Foundation (I.A.W.F)</i></b><br>Active Member and Panel Presenter   |
| 2016                        | “AZIZI FOR JUDGE 2016” Judicial Candidate  |
| 2016                        | <b><i>Black Chamber of Commerce Inland Empire</i></b>  |

Member

2016 Upland Chamber of Commerce

2016 Rancho Cucamonga Chamber of Commerce

2016 to Present People For Peace & Prosperity; A Platform For Change, A Non-Profit Public Benefit CA Corporation, Founder, CEO

## Publications and Articles

1991 Production Editor, University of La Verne, College of Law, The Adelphia Law Journal, Vol. 7. 1991

1992 "Second Degree Felony-Murder Rule and Child Abuse" University of La Verne, College of Law, Journal of Juvenile Law, Vol. 13. 1992

1992 "Is the Unlawful Sexual Misconduct of a Minor 'Willful Misconduct' Under California's Parental Liability Statute?" University of La Verne, College of Law, Journal of Juvenile Law, Vol. 13. 1992

2013 "How to choose the right Attorney?" Inland Valley Daily Bulletin, July 2013

2013 to Present and commentaries: *Nine O Nine Magazine*: Monthly "Law Talk By: Soheila" articles

2013 "Talk is Cheap!" February 2013; "See You In Court . . . Really!?" March 2013

"Are You A Victim of Domestic Violence?" April 2013;  
 "YOUR WORST NIGHTMARES: The Double Jeopardy of Divorce and Taxes!!"  
 May 2013; "Father's Right, Mother's Rights, Grand Parents' Rights" . . . Who is Right!?" June 2013; "A Legal Time-Bomb Called "Statute of Limitations!" July 2013; "A Historic Background To California's Same Sex Marriage Laws" August 2013; "THE USA PATRIOT ACT: Preserving The Life and Liberty of Americans After 9/11/01" September 2013; "What are the '10 essential health benefits' under the new AFFORDABLE CARE ACT?" October 2013; "How Much Do You Know (or need to know) about Entertainment and Intellectual Property laws?" November 2013; "Make Peace With Conflict: Use it as a Stepping Stone, Not a Stumbling Block!" December 2013; "Striving For Excellence" Magazine Cover Story and Biography, January 2014; "Ignorance of Law is Not a Defense! A Glance at some of The New Laws in California For 2014" January and February 2014;

“International Women’s Day” March 2014; “What Do You Know About Your Marital Property Rights?!” April 2014; “How Does The Superior Court’s Reorganization Plan Affect Your Access to Justice?” May & June 2014; The Landmark “Patient Safety Act” qualifies for November 2014 California Ballot! July 2014; Prenuptial/Postnuptial Agreements: What, Why and When?” August 2014; “Are You Prepared to Face Elder Law Issues?” September 2014; “October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month” October 2014; “One Nation Under God, Indivisible, With Liberty & Justice For (Almost) All!” November 2014; “At Last, A Sensible Approach to America’s Broken System of Immigration!” December 2014; “When is A Landowner Responsible for Crime of Another?” March 2015; “Collaborative Mediation; The Ideal Team Approach to Conflict Resolution” April 2015; “Why Should The Courts Be The Last Resort (not the first!!!) For Resolving A Majority of Disputes?” May 2015; Let us Celebrate Every Day As The “Race Unity Day!” June 2015; “March Toward Equality” or “Threat to American Democracy?” July 2015; Flooding The Courts With “Water” Litigation! August 2015; “litigate or Mitigate? First Investigate?! September 2015; Understanding The Roots of School Violence Can Offer A Broader Perspective on Prevention! October 2015; Another Celebrated Step Towards Gender Equality! December 2015; Have We Done Enough to Counter Violent Extremism? January 2016; How to Judge A Judge?! March 2016

## Awards and Recognitions

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| 2007 to Present            | Nominee: Women of Distinction, State Assembly 63 <sup>rd</sup> District          |
| 2011 to 2012<br>California | Recipient: Excellence in Peace Maker Award, Superior Court of California         |
| 2013 & 2018                | Nominee: “Women in Business” Award, Orange County & LA Business Journal          |
| 2011 to Present            | “Women of Distinction,” Inland Empire Magazine                                   |
| 2011 to Present            | “Top Lawyers” Award, Inland Empire Magazine                                      |
| 2014 to 2016               | Recipient: Jane Addams Award, Superior Court of California, County of Riverside  |
| 2014                       | Recipient: Excellence in Service Award, City of Rancho Cucamonga Service Council |
| 2014                       | Recipient: Excellence in Service Award, County of San Bernardino                 |

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| 2014 | Recipient: Excellence in Service Award, California State Senate   |
| 2014 | Recipient: Peace Hero, Upland Interfaith Council  |
| 2016 | Recipient: Special Congressional Recognition Award as Joined with University of La Verne Spirit of La Verne Award for Community Engagement and Interfaith Cooperation |
| 2016 | Recipient: "She's The Change" Award by Urban Philanthropy Institute, Special Congressional Recognition, and Certification by California State Assembly                |
| 2016 | Recipient: "Service to Community Award" by University of La Verne Alumni Association  |
| 2017 | Recipient: "Trail Blazing Women" Recognition Award by Victor Valley College   |
| 2020 | Recipient: "Jennifer Brooks Lawyer of The Year Award" by Western San Bernardino County Bar Association  |

### **Volunteer Experience and Community Service**

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| 1993 to Present             | Board Member of Spiritual Assembly of Baha'is of Upland   |
| 1995 to Present             | Past President & Co-Founder of Upland Interfaith Council  |
| 1994 to Present             | Co-Sponsor of "Upland Annual Prayer Breakfast," 911 Commemoration Events, "National Day of Prayer," "Charter For Compassion, International," "Compassionate San Bernardino," "Week of Worship," "11 Days of Unity," "Community Partnership for Oneness," and "Compassionate Cities/Healthy RC" Race Amity Day Celebrations and Unity Walk |
| 1995 to Present             | University of La Verne Mock Trial Competition Judge   |
| 2005 to Present<br>Network" | Co-Founder & Board Member of "Women on the Move   |
| 2009 to Present             | Co-Sponsor of Weekly Mentoring Programs & Conferences for Young Girls, and Monthly Women Empowerment Workshops  |
| 2005 to 2012                | Board Member of the Community Partnership for Youth Development   |

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| 2008 to Present<br>Law           | Board Member of Board of Visitors, University of La Verne, College of  |
| 2014 to Present<br>Board Member  | Collaborative Divorce Professionals of the Inland Empire,  |
| 2016<br>Advisory Council         | Member of University of La Verne Spiritual Life And Interfaith   |
| 2016 to 2018                     | Sponsor of "Gaining Unity" Quarterly Discussion series at Upland<br>Police Department  |
| 2016                             | Panel Member and Presenter on Race Unity at "Upland Summit to<br>Enhance Community Relationships"  |
| 2000 to Present<br>& County Bars | Arbitrator for Mandatory Fee Arbitration Program of CA State   |
| 2011 to Present                  | Mediator Panelist for TAMS Civil and DRS Family Law Programs in<br>Riverside Superior Court  |
| 2016 to Present                  | Founder of "People for Peace and Prosperity" a socio-economic<br>development project   |
| 2016 to Present                  | Member "Compassionate San Bernardino," and "Healthy RC"  |
| 1998 to Present                  | Volunteer Certified Temporary Judge, Settlement Officer, Mediator<br>and Volunteer Certified Temporary Judge, Settlement Officer,<br>Mediation and Arbitrator for Riverside and San Bernardino County<br>Small Claims, Superior Court Family Law and Civil Mediation Panels, as<br>well as for local County Bars and ODR/ADR Mediation and Arbitration<br>panels |