

STUART SHANUS

Mediator & Arbitrator

Stuart Shanus brings over three decades of distinguished experience resolving complex commercial and intellectual property disputes from every critical vantage point as trial lawyer, business executive, and dedicated neutral. As a partner at Reed Smith LLP and managing partner of the firm's Los Angeles and Century City offices, Stuart served as first chair in high-stakes trials and arbitrations nationwide that were at the intersection of law and sophisticated business operations. His trial practice encompassed lead counsel roles in multi-month arbitrations involving technology licensing and major financial institutions, lead trial counsel in ICC international arbitrations, and as a first-chair trial lawyer in complex commercial litigation in state and federal courts nationwide.

Stuart's executive leadership experience provides invaluable commercial perspective to his dispute resolution practice. He served as Chief Legal Officer at True Velocity, managing global legal strategy, IP portfolios, and dispute resolution for a defense industry innovator; President of Brazos Licensing & Development, directing international patent portfolio monetization and enforcement strategy across multiple sectors; and General Counsel at Wade & Company, leading all legal matters for an opportunistic investment firm while serving as lead trial counsel in complex commercial arbitrations. This executive experience, which included negotiating with Fortune 500 companies, managing legal budgets, and making critical risk assessments, has fundamentally transformed his approach to dispute resolution by providing deep insight into how business decisions are actually made.

In 2025, Stuart founded Shanus ADR to focus entirely on what he does best: guiding sophisticated parties to resolution through expert mediation and arbitration. This isn't a retirement practice or a side venture, it represents Stuart's full commitment to delivering what courts often cannot: hyper-focused attention, active case management, and timely



Areas of Expertise

- Commercial & Business Disputes
- Intellectual Property & Technology
- Employment & Executive Matters
- Complex Contracts & Licensing

Education

- J.D., George Washington University Law School
- B.A., Boston College

Contact

- Case Manager: Nikki Safavi
- nikki@shanusadr.com
- 310.295.9298
- Available Statewide and Throughout California





resolution. He has been described as a "legal geek with personality," Stuart loves wrestling with complex legal issues but never loses sight of the human elements and business realities that drive resolution. Colleagues and clients know him for his unyielding preparation, his ability to quickly grasp complex situations, and for creatively finding common ground where others see only conflict. His approach combines intellectual rigor with practical judgment, intensity with appropriate humor, and unwavering professionalism with genuine empathy. After 35 years in the trenches of commercial disputes, Stuart understands that every conflict—no matter how complex—ultimately comes down to people making decisions. His role is to help them make the best ones possible.

Experience

- Mediator & Arbitrator, Shanus ADR (2025 - present)
- Chief Legal Officer, True Velocity (2023 - 2025)
- President, Brazos Licensing & Development (2017 - 2023)
- General Counsel, Wade & Company (2016 - 2019)
- Partner, Reed Smith (1997 - 2016)
- Partner & Associate, Bell, Boyd & Lloyd (1989 - 1996)

Professional Licenses

- State Bar of California (1997)
- State Bar of Illinois (1989)

ADR Training

- Comprehensive mediation training and certification

Civic Engagement

- Former Board Member Los Angeles Urban League
- Former Board of Trustees, the Campbell Hall School, Chair of Advancement Committee, Member of Executive Committee