

Ricardo J. Cata

Mediator and Arbitrator

Ricardo Cata practiced as a civil litigator and trial lawyer in South Florida for 38 years. His mediation practice focuses on construction and design defects; commercial, franchise and contractual disputes; trademark infringement; cross-border disputes (in litigation or arbitration); aviation, maritime and cruise passenger claims; general, resort, product and premises liability; medical malpractice; and wrongful death.

He is certified to mediate civil cases by the U.S. District Court, Southern and Middle Districts of Florida. Ricardo is a member of the American Arbitration Association (AAA) Mediator Panel and a Florida Supreme Court Approved Arbitrator. He is also a member of the AAA Roster of Neutrals, the ICDR Cruise Line and Seafarer Arbitrator Panel, and the CPR Panels of Distinguished Neutrals.

Ricardo has served as arbitrator in AAA commercial disputes.

During his legal practice, Ricardo represented resorts and tour operators from Latin America in Florida's circuit and federal courts, obtaining dismissals on forum non conveniens or lack of personal jurisdiction. Ricardo also represented domestic and international manufacturers of products on claims of design and/or manufacturing defects and represented U.S. and Latin American clients in commercial and contractual disputes. He also represented clients in claims of design and construction defects, wrongful death suits, franchise litigation, maritime disputes, and medical and chiropractic malpractice suits.

A native of Cuba, Ricardo is bilingual in Spanish and English, and has mediated in Spanish.

Professional Education and Qualifications

B.A. ~ Long Island University, 1972, summa cum laude

J.D. ~ St. John's University School of Law, 1975

M.A. ~ University of Miami Graduate School of International Studies

- Florida Supreme Court Certified Circuit Civil Mediator
- American Arbitration Association Mediator Panel and Roster of Neutrals
- Certified Mediator, USDC, Southern and Middle Districts of Florida
- Florida Supreme Court Approved Arbitrator, 2015
- Martindale Hubbell AV® Preeminent™ rated
- International Institute for Conflict Prevention & Resolution (CPR)'s Advanced Commercial Mediation Training, 2013
- ABA, Section of Dispute Resolution's Advanced Mediation Training, 2013
- Arbitration Fundamentals and Best Practices for New AAA Arbitrators, 2015
- CI Arb's Introduction to International Arbitration, 2015

Bar Admissions

- The Florida Bar
- U.S. District Court, Southern, Middle and Northern Districts of Florida
- U.S. Court of Appeals, 11th Circuit
- U.S. Supreme Court

Professional Memberships

- American Bar Association: Sections of Dispute Resolution and International Law
- Miami International Arbitration Society
- The Florida Bar: Alternative Dispute Resolution and International Law Sections
- Executive Council Member, Florida Bar's ADR Section
- AAA Mediator Panel
- Chair, Mediation Committee, Florida Bar's International Law Section, 2015-2016
- AAA Roster of Neutrals
- ICDR Cruise Line and Seafarer Arbitration Panel (CL & SAP)
- CPR Panels of Distinguished Neutrals