



SNYDER

Dispute Resolution

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Joan P. Snyder

Mediator and Arbitrator of Environmental & Natural Resources and related Insurance Disputes

Joan Snyder is a mediator and arbitrator focused on complex environmental, natural resources, and related insurance disputes. She brings more than 30 years of experience in environmental law and science to disputes involving technically complex facts, multiple parties, regulatory agency oversight, substantial financial exposure, insurance coverage questions, and difficult allocation and causation issues.

Before becoming a neutral, Joan practiced at Stoel Rives LLP for 34 years, where she was nationally recognized as one of the top attorneys in her field. Her practice encompassed environmental and natural resources litigation, Superfund/CERCLA matters, environmental insurance coverage disputes, regulatory enforcement proceedings, environmental compliance, environmental issues arising in real estate and corporate transactions, and serving as an advocate in arbitrations and mediations in all these areas.

Joan's scientific background enables her to engage effectively with technical evidence and experts and with the science and engineering complexities behind the legal issues. She earned a B.S. in Chemistry with high honors, pursued graduate study in Environmental Engineering, and worked as an industrial chemist before attending law school, where she focused on environmental law. While practicing law, Joan worked with multi-disciplinary teams constantly striving to find the most efficient technical solutions to environmental challenges.

As a neutral, Joan serves on the American Arbitration Association Panel of Arbitrators. She is certified as an Early Dispute Resolution Neutral by the EDR Institute. Her approach emphasizes careful preparation, efficient and fair process, and practical resolution of difficult disputes.

Neutral Experience

American Arbitration Association -- Panel Arbitrator, 2020-present

Multnomah County (Oregon) Small Claims Court -- Mediator, 2022-present, pro bono, over 75 cases mediated.

Early Dispute Resolution Institute -- Certified EDR Neutral—trained to perform initial dispute assessment, manage a limited, efficient information exchange and proceed to a risk-focused mediation.

Representative Areas of Experience

- Superfund/CERCLA litigation and disputes
- Environmental insurance coverage disputes
- Environmental and natural resources litigation and administrative proceedings
- Regulatory and enforcement proceedings
- Environmental compliance matters
- Environmental issues in real estate and corporate transactions
- Complex technical and scientific evidence
- Multi-party environmental and insurance disputes

Prior Legal Practice

Stoel Rives LLP — Attorney, 1986-2022; Partner, 1992-2020

Environmental, Natural Resources and Land Use Practice Group

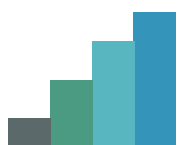
Practiced for more than three decades in environmental and natural resources law, representing parties in litigation, regulatory and enforcement proceedings, arbitrations and mediations, compliance matters, and transactions. Experience included sophisticated Superfund/CERCLA disputes and environmental insurance coverage disputes, which Joan took through mediation, arbitration and court proceedings. Joan has also testified as an expert witness in environmental cleanup.

Education/Science Background

- University of Michigan Law School, J.D., 1984, cum laude
- Drexel University, Graduate study in Environmental Engineering, 1979-80
- University of Delaware, B.S., Chemistry, 1978, with high honors

Professional Recognition

- Chambers Recognition: Selected as one of “America’s Leading Lawyers for Business” (Oregon) by Chambers USA (Environment), 2006-2022
- Named by Best Lawyers® as Environmental Law “Lawyer of the Year,” Portland, Oregon, 2010, 2017 and 2019
- Included in The Best Lawyers in America® (Environmental Law), 2006-2022
- Listed in Oregon Super Lawyers® (Environmental, Insurance Coverage, Environmental Litigation, Energy & Natural Resources), 2008-2020
- Pro Bono Challenge Award, Oregon State Bar, 2023



Selected Publications

- “ADR in Environmental and Natural Resource Disputes,” Chapter 31, Alternative Dispute Resolution in Oregon BarBook™, Oregon State Bar, 2019 ed.
- “Portland Harbor: Strategic Insights from One of the Nation’s Largest On-Going Natural Resource Damage Assessments,” Seventh Annual Advanced Conference on Natural Resource Damages, Washington D.C., March 1, 2018

Affiliations and Certifications

- American Arbitration Association Panel of Arbitrators—Commercial, Construction and Fast Track panels
- Oregon Mediation Association
- Early Dispute Resolution Neutral certification by EDR Institute (www.edrinstitute.org)

Alternative Dispute Resolution Training (selected)

- Early Dispute Resolution Institute training for EDR Neutral certification, 2023
- 40 Hour Basic Mediation Training with Dr. Clare Fowler (University of Oregon), Mediate.com University, 2021
- Comprehensive Training in Advanced Arbitration Skills, 14th Annual Arbitration Training Institute, ABA Dispute Resolution Section, 2021
- Master Class on Complex Environmental Liability Resolution, American Bar Association (ABA) Section of Environment, Energy and Resources, 2019

Contact:

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