



Custom Publishing Supplement to *The National Law Journal*



Dear Readers,

Welcome to the inaugural issue of *ADR Champions*, a special supplement developed by the business arm of *The National Law Journal*. In the pages that follow, you'll read 48 profiles of people who continue to make their mark in various aspects of alternative dispute resolution. While many of those recognized come at the negotiation and settlement process from different angles, a common thread ties them together: each has shown a deep passion and perseverance in pursuit of their mission, having achieved remarkable successes along the way.

We received hundreds of nominations cast in favor of this year's honorees and a cast of other leading minds who will surely be recognized in years to come. We took time to vet each submission and interviewed each *ADR Champion* to find out what has driven them to reach success. In the pages that follow, I think you'll enjoy reading these short findings.

As with all *NLJ supplements*, the list is never complete. Our goal is to spotlight those making a big difference and the search never ends. If you have someone you feel should make our next list, please reach out and let us know. We hope you enjoy this special section and look forward to hearing from you with your nominations for next year's list!

Congratulations again to this year's honorees.

All the best,

Kenneth A. Gary

Vice President and Group Publisher, *The National Law Journal & Legal Times*

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GARY L. BENTON

SILICON VALLEY ARBITRATION AND MEDIATION CENTER

PIONEER SPIRIT Gary Benton developed a passion for business-practical resolution of technology company disputes as a litigation and corporate partner in the Silicon Valley offices of a leading international law firm. Mr. Benton is an internationally recognized Arbitrator and Mediator with over thirty years major law firm and in-house expertise in corporate, private investment, emerging technologies, intellectual property and international business disputes. Mr. Benton's technology sector career includes extensive experience litigating patent and other IP disputes, venture financing Silicon Valley tech startups, handling US and international M&A and IPOs, managing international legal projects for Fortune 500 technology companies, and serving as an Internet cloud cybersecurity company General Counsel.

TRAILS BLAZED In parallel to establishing his ADR practice, Benton founded the Silicon Valley Arbitration and Mediation Center (SVAMC), a non-profit that serves the global technology sector through educational programming and related activities. SVAMC works with leading technology companies, law firms, ADR institutions and universities to promote effective and efficient resolution of technology-related business disputes. SVAMC focuses on hands-on technology company expertise and hosts the List of the World's Leading Technology Neutrals, a growing, peer-vetted list of the most highly regarded technology arbitrators and mediators. "The "Tech List" has been described as "the go-to list of exceptionally experienced and talented neutrals who 'get' technology and, just as importantly, understand the technology business world; something that can't be found in most judges and juries.

FUTURE EXPLORATIONS Mr. Benton believes that the increasingly interconnected global world puts new demands on dispute resolution. "US companies don't want to be forced into foreign courts and foreign companies don't want US courts. We need to provide fair, effective and cost-efficient alternatives. International mediation and arbitration are rapidly evolving to fill that gap.