UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Application for Mediators

Please complete the entire application, using additional paper if necessary. You may also attach a resume.

Name: J. Calhoun Watson

Firm or Office Name: Sowell Gray Stepp & Laffitte, LLC

Office Address: Post Office Box 11449, Columbia, SC 29211

Office Phone: 803-929-1400 Office Fax: 803-231-7889

email address: cwatson@sowell.com

ADMISSIONS AND AFFILIATIONS

Date admitted to the Bar of the District of South Carolina: 1988 I.D. No.: 4794

Date admitted to the South Carolina Bar: 1987 Bar No.: 10089

Other courts or jurisdictions to which admitted (with dates of admission and bar nos.):
United States Court of Appeals, Fourth Circuit

Membership and positions held in bar, ADR and professional associations: South Carolina Bar Foundation (President)
SC Bar House of Delegates, SC Bar Board of Governors, SC Access to Justice Commission, Intern'l Ass'n of Defense Counsel

Are you a member in good standing in each jurisdiction where admitted to practice law? ✓ yes ___ no

Are you currently the subject of any pending disciplinary proceeding in any jurisdiction? ___ yes ✓ no

Have you, within the last 5 years, been denied admission to a bar for character or ethical reasons or disciplined for professional misconduct? ___ yes ✓ no

EDUCATION

Year law degree received 1987 Law School USC School of Law

Other professional degrees received (including year and school)
Wofford College, BA, summa cum laude, 1984

LEGAL EXPERIENCE (A minimum of 5 years of law practice required)

Summarize legal experience (including teaching) since admission to the bar, particularly in the past five years:

1987-88	Law Clerk for the Honorable Robert F. Chapman, United States Court of Appeals, Fourth Circuit
1988-96	Associate and Partner, Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough
1996- Present	Founding Member, Sowell Todd Laffitte Beard & Watson, LLC (later Sowell Gray Stepp & Laffitte, LLC)

Percentage of practice in last 5 years representing plaintiff 20 % or defense 80 %

Percentage of Federal or State court practice in last 5 years: Federal 50 % State 50 %

Number of years engaged in active litigation: 21

EXPERTISE

Indicate all substantive areas in which you have expertise. Place a "1" by your strongest area(s) and a "2" by all other areas in which you have expertise. (Do not rank beyond "1" and "2.") After any category you have marked, please identify any sub-areas of expertise you have (e.g. "medical malpractice" after Personal Injury).

____	Admiralty	2X	Security or Shareholders suits
____	Antitrust	____	Labor
1X	Contracts	2X	ERISA
____	Environment	____	Wrongful Termination
1X	Fraud or Civil RICO	____	Civil Rights in Employment
1X	Insurance	____	Other Civil Rights
____	Miller Act	2X	Copyrights
1X	Personal Injury	____	Patent
1X	Product Liability	2X	Trademark
1X	Other (specify) Professional Liabili		

Publications:

MEDIATION EXPERIENCE

Mediation experience (particularly in the subject matter categories above):

I have participated as an lawyer advocate in numerous mediations in a wide variety of cases, including multi-party cases and class actions. In addition, I completed the SC Bar's Civil Court Mediation Training in 2007.

Other courts or organizations for whom you serve as a mediator (please note any certifications):

Number of mediations conducted: 0 Number of other ADR sessions conducted: 0

MEDIATION AND OTHER ADR TRAINING

Course Provider	Course Content	Date	Place	No. of Hours
South Carolina Bar	Civil Court Mediation Training	8/16/07-8/20/2007	Embassy Suites Columbia, SC	40.00

OTHER INFORMATION

Are you familiar with the statutes, rules and practice governing alternative dispute resolution in the District of South Carolina? ✓ yes ____ no

Other relevant experience or skills or other information you would like considered in connection with this application:
My practice has generally been business and insurance litigation (plaintiff and defendant) and professional liability defense.

Cities in which you are available to conduct mediation:

[X] Columbia [X] Charleston [X] Greenville [X] Florence

Other _____

Fees charged:

Hourly Rate: $ 295 Minimum charge each mediation: $ $750

How do you bill for travel? (explain):
1/2 rate plus mileage

I agree to: (1) Be subject to the Rules of Professional Conduct, Rule 407, South Carolina Appellate Court Rules; the Rules for Lawyer Disciplinary Enforcement, Rule 413, South Carolina Appellate Court Rules; and the Local Rules of the District Court; (2) Provide mediation to indigents without pay if ordered by the Court; (3) Notify the Alternative Dispute Resolution Program Director of any change in the above facts or otherwise in my ability to perform duties as a mediator; (4) Disclosure of information contained in this application to litigants and other members of the public.

I certify that the foregoing is true and correct.

Signature: _____ Date: 7-1-09
Applicant

Return completed application to:
Danny H. Mullis, Director
Alternative Dispute Resolution Program
United States District Court
Post Office Box 835
Charleston, SC 29402-0835

Reviewed: _____ Date: 7/7/09
ADR Program

Approved: _____ Date: 7/7/09
U.S. District Judge

3/2000

Joseph Calhoun "Cal" Watson
Sowell Gray Stepp & Laffitte, LLC
1310 Gadsden Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201
(803) 787-9048 (home)
(803) 929-1400 (office)
cwatson@sowell.com

Education

1987 **UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA SCHOOL OF LAW**
Columbia, South Carolina
Juris Doctor Degree

Honors: *Cum laude graduate; Order of the Coif; Order of the Wig and Robe; South Carolina Law Review (Student Works Editor)*

1984 **WOFFORD COLLEGE**
Spartanburg, South Carolina
Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Government

Honors: *Summa cum laude graduate; Phi Beta Kappa; Student Body President*

Employment

1996 - Present
Sowell Gray Stepp & Laffitte, LLC (formerly Sowell Todd Laffitte Beard & Watson, LLC) Columbia, South Carolina
Managing Partner, January 1, 2000 – December 31, 2003
Managing Partner, January 1, 2008 – Present
Member

1993 - 1995
Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough, L.L.P.
Columbia, South Carolina
Partner

1988 - 1993
Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough, L.L.P.
Columbia, South Carolina
Associate

1987 - 1988
Honorable Robert F. Chapman
United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit
Richmond, Virginia
Judicial Clerk

South Carolina Bar and Bar Foundation Activities

1997 - Present	House of Delegates, South Carolina Bar (Elected Representative)
1998 - 2000; 2008- Present	Board of Governors, South Carolina Bar
2000 - 2008	South Carolina Bar Foundation, Immediate Past President (2007-08); President (2006-07); President-Elect (2005-06); Secretary-Treasurer (2004-05); Member of the Board (2000 – 2008)
2000 - 2007	South Carolina Lawyer, Editorial Board
2003 - Present	Conventions Committee, South Carolina Bar
2001 - 2004	Nominating Committee, South Carolina Bar
2000 - 2001	South Carolina Bar Long Range Planning Committee
1995 - 1999	South Carolina Bar, Young Lawyers Division, Immediate Past President (1998-99); President (1997-98); President-Elect (1996-97); and Secretary-Treasurer (1995-96)
1995 - 1996	Chair, SC-YLD Long Range Planning Committee

Other Activities and Awards

2008-09	Named in 2008 and 2009 editions of ***The Best Lawyers in America,*** (Designations in Commercial Litigation and Professional Liability)
2008-09	Selected as a SC "Super Lawyer" for Business Litigation (2008, 2009)
2009	Chambers U.S.A. America's Leading Lawyers for Business
2006 – Present	South Carolina Access to Justice Commission
1993 – Present	Shandon United Methodist Church, Chair, Church Council (governing body) (2007-2010); Chair, Outreach Committee (1993-96); Nominations Committee (1996-99); Vice-Chair, Council on Ministries, (1999-02); Chair, Communications Task Force (2000-01); Sixth Grade Sunday School Teacher (2001-2007)

1995 – Present	Shandon United Methodist Preschool and Kindergarten, Member of the Board; Chair, 2000-04
2000 - Present	Historic Columbia Foundation, President of the Board of Trustees (2007-2009), First Vice President (2005-07) Second Vice President (2004-05); Chair, Development Committee (2003-04); Chair, Government Relations Committee (2000-03); Chair, Strategic Plan Committee (2006-07)
2005 - Present	John Belton O'Neall Inn of Court
2005 - Present	International Association of Defense Counsel, Member (IADC)
2003 - 2004	Brennan Elementary School, Endowment Chair (2003-04), PTO Board (2003-04); Multi-Age Education Task Force (2004-05)
2001	Compleat Lawyer Award (Silver Medallion), University of South Carolina School of Law
2000	President, Wofford College National Alumni Association
1998 - 2001	Executive Council, Wofford College National Alumni Association
1996 - 1997	Wofford College Club of Greater Columbia, President
1995 - 1997	Greater Columbia Literary Council, Member of the Board (Chair, Special Projects Committee)
1993 - 2000	Pro Bono Counsel, SC SHARE (Self Help Association Regarding Emotions); Recipient, Excellence Award (1994)
Various - Present	Richland County Bar Association, South Carolina Defense Trial Lawyers Association, American Bar Association, Defense Research Institute