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: Grady L. Beard

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

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

Office Phone: (803) 231-7824 Office Fax: (803) 231-7874

email address: gbeard@sowell.com

ADMISSIONS AND AFFILIATIONS

Date admitted to the Bar of the District of South Carolina: 05/06/88 I.D. No.: 3535

Date admitted to the South Carolina Bar: 11/23/87 Bar No.: 10190

Other courts or jurisdictions to which admitted (with dates of admission and bar nos.):
Georgia Bar - 1987; USDC, Middle and Northern Districts of Georgia; US Court of Appeals, Fourth and Eleventh Circuits.

Membership and positions held in bar, ADR and professional associations: See attached.

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 Emory University School of Law

Other professional degrees received (including year and school)
Northwestern State University, B.S., summa cum laude, 1983

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:
1987-96 - Associate and Partner, Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough
1996-present - Founding Member, Sowell Todd Laffitte Beard & Watson (later Sowell Gray Stepp & Laffitte, LLC)

Percentage of practice in last 5 years representing plaintiff 5 % or defense 95 %

Percentage of Federal or State court practice in last 5 years: Federal 10 % State 90 %

Number of years engaged in active litigation: 22

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

Publications:

Co-author of The Law of Workers' Compensation Insurance in South Carolina (numerous editions).

MEDIATION EXPERIENCE

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

I have participated as a lawyer advocate in numerous mediations in a variety of cases, including multi-party cases, employment matters, and workers' compensation cases. In addition, I completed the South Carolina Bar's Civil Court Mediation Training Program in 2009.

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

I have applied for Certification with the South Carolina Board of Arbitrators and Mediators.

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	03/26/09 03/30/09	South Carolina Bar	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 workers' compensation (defense) and employment litigation (plaintiff and defense). Argued numerous cases before the South Carolina Court of Appeals and South Carolina Supreme Court.
- Co-author of The Law of Workers' Compensation Insurance in South Carolina

Cities in which you are available to conduct mediation:

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

Other _____

Fees charged:

Hourly Rate: $ 300 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: 8/17/09
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: 8/19/09
ADR Program

Approved: _____ Date: 8/19/09
U.S. District Judge

3/2000

Attachment to the
United States District Court
District of South Carolina
Application for Mediators

Membership and positions held in bar. ADR and professional associations:

South Carolina Defense Trial Attorneys Association (Co-Chair Workers' Compensation Section); National Workers' Compensation Defense Network (South Carolina Representative); Defense Research Institute; South Carolina Bar Association (Labor & Employment Section and Workers' Compensation Section); American Bar Association; Larson's National Workers' Compensation Advisory Board (South Carolina Member)