

Joseph Paul Smith

Mediator • Trial Lawyer

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Joseph Paul Smith is an Arkansas state-certified mediator and veteran trial lawyer with more than two decades of experience in state and federal courts. He has represented more than one thousand clients to conclusion in civil, commercial, domestic, probate, and criminal matters and brings a steady, litigation-informed perspective to dispute resolution. His mediation practice emphasizes preparation, credibility, and disciplined problem-solving in complex and emotionally charged disputes.

MEDIATION & ADR CREDENTIALS

- Certified Mediator (Civil, Domestic & Probate), Arkansas Dispute Resolution Commission (CRT #2025-11), 2025–present
- 40-Hour Civil Trial Court Mediation Training, Arkansas ADR Commission (2025)
- 40-Hour Domestic Relations Mediation Training, Arkansas ADR Commission (2025)
- 60-Hour Civil & Domestic Mediation Training, NOVA Southeastern University, Florida (2001)
- Private paid neutral in civil, commercial, domestic, and church disputes since 2000

AREAS OF PRACTICE & EXPERIENCE

- Civil and commercial disputes
- Insurance and business litigation
- Probate and estate-related conflicts
- Domestic and family matters
- Criminal matters (state and federal)
- Church and faith-based institutional disputes
- Complex, multi-party litigation

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Licensed to practice law in Arkansas and New Mexico, Mr. Smith has extensive experience in state and federal trial courts, including jury and bench trials. He is admitted to the U.S. District Courts for the Eastern and Western Districts of Arkansas, the District of New Mexico, and the District of Minnesota, as well as the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit. His litigation background informs a practical, even-handed mediation style grounded in risk assessment and realistic evaluation of outcomes.

PUBLIC SERVICE & PRIOR PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Former Paramedic, Field Supervisor, and Clinical Instructor, Albuquerque EMS (1987–1995)
- Former Field Deputy Medical Investigator, New Mexico Office of the Medical Investigator (1991–1995)

EDUCATION

- Juris Doctor, University of Arkansas (1999)
- Bachelor of Business Administration, College of Santa Fe (1995)
- Ph.D., Theology, St. Gregory the Great Old Catholic Seminary (2003)
- Master of Divinity, Pastoral Counseling, St. Gregory the Great Old Catholic Seminary (1997)