

**CHRISTOPHER J. SOELLING, PLLC**

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**Current Employment:** Full-time neutral: mediation and arbitration of commercial, construction, real estate, insurance and business matters.

**Former Employment:** Attorney and partner at Short, Cressman & Burgess PLLC (1981 to 2001),

**Legal Experience:**

Twenty seven years as a lawyer; twenty years as commercial and construction litigator. Experience included:

- More than a dozen jury trials, including construction, commercial fraud, and real estate issues
- Numerous bench trials, including construction, commercial, purchase and sale, and real property disputes
- Appellate work in both state and federal courts
- Representation of plaintiffs and defendants in numerous arbitrations and mediations
- Negotiated settlements of construction, environmental (CERCLA, MTCA), estate, partnership and real estate disputes
- Extensive negotiation and drafting of industrial, commercial, and residential construction contracts, claim analysis and preparation
- Clients included individuals, municipalities, suppliers, subcontractors, general contractors, developers, and owners

## **Mediation Experience:**

Active mediator since 1990. Primary areas: construction, commercial, real estate, insurance coverage, insurance as it applies to liability issues. Mediated hundreds of cases in seven Western States, including Alaska, Hawaii and California:

- Industrial/Commercial: Pipelines, airports, municipal/metro projects, churches, office towers, road construction, sewage treatment plants
- Construction Defect Claims: Condominium/ townhouses, apartments, banks, warehouses
- Residential New Construction and Remodel: Residential claims of all types, project management claims, warranty of habitability, etc.
- Partnership Disputes, Commercial Claims, Real Estate Disputes: including adverse possession, purchase and sale agreements, etc., distributorship agreements; commercial fraud, etc.
- Dispute Review Boards: Washington State Convention and Trade Center Expansion Project, Seattle, 1998 to 2001
- Trust and Estate Disputes: Will contests, division of asset disputes among family members
- Mold: Personal injury and property damage actions involving mold, including claims relative to *stachybotrys chartarum*
- Mediations Where a Party is a Public Entity: Numerous mediations where a public entity is a party, including the Federal government, Washington, Oregon, Alaska, and Idaho political subdivisions, counties, municipalities, water districts, and school districts
- Insurance Coverage: Earthquake claims, first party coverage, third party claims

## **Arbitration Experience:**

- Extensive arbitration experience in commercial, construction and real estate disputes

- Sole arbitrator through American Arbitration Association of commercial and construction disputes, numerous residential new construction and remodeling disputes; Member and chair of three arbitrator panels
- Numerous private arbitrations: Commercial and residential construction, property, and general commercial disputes, insurance issues

**Alternative Dispute Resolution Training:**

Group facilitator, ABA Annual ADR Meeting, 2006  
 Advanced arbitrator training, AAA, 2002,  
 Advanced construction mediation training, 1997;  
 Basic mediation training, 1992;  
 Trainer, observer, AAA mediation training, 1997;  
 Collaborative mediation training, ADR Options Consulting, 1996;  
 Advanced arbitrator training, AAA, 1996;  
 Basic arbitrator training, AAA, 1991

**Professional Licenses:**

Bar admission, State of Washington 1981;  
 U.S. District Court, Western and Eastern Districts of Washington;  
 Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals;  
 U.S. Tax Court  
 AV rated by Martindale-Hubbell

**Professional Activities:**

Former chair, ADR Section, King County Bar Association;  
 Former Secretary, Washington State Bar Association Construction Section;  
 National Electrical Contractors Association (former member);  
 National Mason Contractors Association (former member);  
 American Arbitration Association, commercial and construction arbitration panels;  
 Frequent CLE speaker on ADR and construction topics locally and nationally, including the ethics of negotiating, use of arbitration in lien foreclosure claims, etc.

**Awards:**

Super lawyer, Washington Law and Politics, 2001-2007;  
 Top 100 vote-getter, Washington Law & Politics, 2006, 2007

Seattle's Best Lawyers, Seattle Magazine, 2005, 2007  
*The League of Justice: Most Amazing Attorneys*, Washington CEO Magazine,  
2006, and 2007

**Education:**

Cornell Law School, J.D. 1981, Cornell International Law Journal;  
University of Washington, B.S., 1977 *cum laude*, Phi Beta Kappa