

# Leyla Balakhane

Divorce and Family Mediator

## Professional Overview

Leyla Balakhane is a respected Divorce and Family Mediator with more than 15 years in conflict resolution and family mediation, known for her professionalism, compassion, and thoughtful leadership in the field. With a background as a facilitator, coach, and trainer, she is devoted to helping families reach mutually acceptable and sustainable agreements that preserve dignity, reduce conflict, and support lasting solutions. Guided by a deep commitment to ensuring every child has the chance to grow up in a happy, safe, and loving home, Leyla embodies compassion and dedication, standing as an example of how one person can make a meaningful difference.

## Mediation Mastery – 40-Hour Training

### **Co-Founder, Mediation Mastery – 40-Hour Mediation Training**

As the co-founder of Mediation Mastery's 40-Hour Mediation Training, Leyla is committed to equipping professionals with practical skills, ethical grounding, and the confidence to serve families with care. Her work as an educator reflects her belief that mediation is both an art and a craft—one that can transform conflict into an opportunity for clarity, growth, and connection.

## Leadership and Recognition

- Board of Directors, Southern California Mediation Association (SCMA)
- Board of Directors, Academy of Professional Family Mediators (APFM)
- Chair of Membership, SCMA
- Recipient of the 2023 SCMA President's Award
- Certified Advanced Practitioner, APFM
- Panel Member, Los Angeles County Bar Association Arbitration Panel (LACBA), serving on the arbitration panel for attorney–client fee disputes

In addition, Leyla leads SCMA's monthly Professional Development Group for Family Law Mediators, where she mentors practitioners, facilitates community learning, and invites leading voices in the field to share their insights.

## Global Contributions

Leyla's influence extends beyond California. As a member of the Academy of Professional Family Mediators Board of Directors, she also serves on the Committee Uniting State, National, and International Mediation Associations. In this role, she collaborates with leading professionals around the world to advance best practices and strengthen global standards. Her work supports the growth of mediation as a respected discipline that bridges cultures, promotes collaboration, and fosters understanding across diverse communities.

## Advisor at Edelman Children's Court

At the Edmund D. Edelman Children's Court, Leyla supervises and mentors mediators who handle complex and sensitive family cases. She is dedicated to ensuring that the needs and voices of children remain at the center of the process, reflecting her belief that every child deserves the opportunity to grow up in a safe, stable, and nurturing environment.

## Areas of Practice

- Child-focused mediation guiding parenting plans and child support decisions with the child's long-term well-being at the center
- Divorce and legal separation mediation
- Property, asset, and debt division
- Business interests and real estate in divorce
- Spousal support and financial arrangements
- Premarital, post-marital, and cohabitation agreements
- Post-judgment modifications
- Other family law and related family dispute matters

## Mediation Experience

- Balakhane Mediation – Family Law Mediator
- Britton White Mediation Services – Family Law Mediator
- Los Angeles Bar Association – Fee Arbitrator
- Children's Courthouse – Supervises and mentors mediators and law students in performing child custody and visitation arrangements, draft mediation agreements, and create parenting plans informed by court exit orders
- ADR Panel, Los Angeles Superior Court – Mediator in family law and civil disputes
- LA Mediate, Family Law Mediator Panel – Family Law Mediator
- Center for Dispute Resolution Panel – Mediator in Los Angeles Superior Court small claims cases resulting in 90% written settlement agreements
- California Academy of Mediation Professionals (CAMP) Mediator Panel – Mediated unlawful detainer, civil harassment, elder abuse, domestic violence, limited jurisdiction, and small claims cases
- Inglewood Superior Courthouse – Volunteer at legal clinic for domestic violence restraining orders
- Mosten Mediation Training – Mediation Coach, 40-Hour Divorce Mediation
- USC Gould School of Law – Mediation Coach, Children & Dependency Mediation
- Pepperdine and USC Law School – Mediation Trainer and Coach, Courtroom Mediation Skills

## Mediation Training & Education

- USC Law School – 40-Hour Children & Dependency Mediation
- Pepperdine School of Law – Advanced Mediation Training in Family Law Dispute Resolution

- Seeds Community Resolution Center – 40-Hour Mediator Certification

### **Santa Clara County Superior Court**

- – 40-Hour Mediation Training
- – Advanced Mediation Skills Practicum
- – Mediation & Negotiation Workshop
- Los Angeles County Bar Association – Attorney–Client Fee Dispute Arbitration Training
- Marina Collaborative Divorce Group – Mediation Training on Collaborative Divorce
- High Conflict Institute – Training on managing disputes involving high-conflict personalities
- American Institute of Mediation – Legal Nuts & Bolts Course
- National Business Institute – 25-Hour Family Law Training
- Centinela Youth Services – Mediation Training
- County of Los Angeles Department of Consumer Affairs Dispute Resolution Program – Civil Harassment

### **Education**

California State University, Dominguez Hills – M.A. in Negotiation, Conflict Resolution and Peace Building, 2011 (Distinguished Scholar Award)

Loyola Marymount University – B.A. in Psychology, 1999