



AUSTEN|MEDIATION

JON L. AUSTEN

Jon is a full-time provider of alternative dispute resolution services. He has worked as a mediator since 1996 and has mediated more than 3,000 cases. Jon's over three decades of litigation experience, together with his strong reputation among local attorneys, has enabled him to consistently achieve successful, negotiated resolutions.

TRANSPARENT BILLING

Mediation fees are calculated on an hourly basis, as outlined below:

- 2 Parties: \$225 per party, per hour
- 3/more Parties: \$150 per party, per hour

A "party" is defined as all individuals represented by the same attorney. The hourly rate includes time spent in mediation session, as well as reasonable preparation, review of submissions, communications with counsel, and post-mediation follow-up. Fees are divided equally among the parties unless otherwise agreed in advance.

MINIMUM FEE

- Half-Day Mediation: 3 hour minimum
- Full-Day Mediation: 5 hour minimum

The applicable minimum is billed for any mediation reserved for that time period.

CANCELLATION POLICY

To avoid the minimum fee, notify our office **at least 21 days in advance** if a mediation must be cancelled or rescheduled. To maintain neutrality, the minimum is billed **equally** to all parties, regardless of who cancels or why, even if the case settles or is being rescheduled.

BILLING & PAYMENT

Invoices are issued **after** the mediation (post-billing). Unless otherwise agreed, **counsel are jointly and severally responsible** for timely payment. Payment is due upon receipt and should follow the instructions on the invoice.

FOCUSED PRACTICE AREAS

- **Civil & Tort Litigation** : Personal injury, wrongful death, premises liability, and complex negligence and tort claims.
- **Insurance Disputes** : Coverage disputes, risk transfer issues, and bad-faith allegations.
- **Employment & Contract Claims** : Employment matters including discrimination, retaliation, and wrongful termination, as well as contract and business disputes.
- **Government & Institutional Matters** : Disputes involving municipalities, public entities, and institutional defendants.

Additional Areas of Focus : Construction, Professional Liability, Property Damage

OFFICE PHONE
843.892.5779

CELL PHONE
843.870.0123

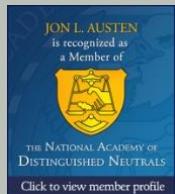
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SCAN TO SAVE
CONTACT INFO



Best Lawyers

ADMISSIONS

- South Carolina Bar

CERTIFICATIONS

- Certified Mediator, South Carolina

MEMBERSHIPS & AFFILIATIONS

- **American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA)** - Associate (2005-present)
- **SC Alternative Dispute Resolution Commission** + assisting in arbitrator and mediator certification
- **Attorney assisting the SC Office of Disciplinary Counsel** in investigation of attorney complaints
- **National Academy of Distinguished Neutrals** - Academy Member (2016-present)

EDUCATION

- Wake Forest University School of Law, J.D. (1986)
- The Ohio State University, B.A., Political Science (1983)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- **Mediator** - Full-Time Mediation Practice | 1996-Present
 - Mediated more than 3,000 civil disputes in state and federal matters
 - Focus on negotiated resolution of complex civil, insurance, employment, contract, and governmental disputes
- **Austen & Gowder, LLC** - Member | December 2016-2025
- **Pratt-Thomas Walker, P.A.** - Shareholder | 1986-2016
 - Insurance defense and civil litigation practice
 - Extensive trial experience prior to transitioning focus to mediation

PEER RECOGNITIONS

- AV Preeminent Rating, Martindale-Hubbell
- Best Lawyers in America, Mediation, Charleston, South Carolina
- Super Lawyers, Mediation

SCHEDULE A MEDIATION
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