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In 1988, when the State of Florida took the bold step of requiring mediation in nearly all civil cases, the principals of **Upchurch Watson White & Max** rapidly emerged as leaders in the development of the alternative dispute resolution movement. Members of Upchurch Watson White & Max chaired key committees appointed by the Florida Supreme Court and worked with the bar to implement this revolutionary process. These early efforts helped make Florida one of the preeminent jurisdictions in the country implementing innovative methods of alternative dispute resolution.

Today, Upchurch Watson White & Max, a leading mediation specialty firm, includes a panel of twenty-four Supreme Court certified circuit civil mediators with wideranging specialties. Each serves as a courtappointed or privately employed mediator, arbitrator or special master / magistrate.

### **SERVICES INCLUDE:**

# MEDIATION AND ARBITRATION



The members of Upchurch Watson White & Max have

successfully mediated thousands of cases in state and federal trial and appellate courts, embracing virtually every class of dispute. Recognized nationally, members of the firm travel across the United States and often overseas to mediate, arbitrate and facilitate negotiations involving a broad range of civil, business, labor and intergovernmental disputes.

#### **E-DISCOVERY**

Three of our most experienced mediators, John Upchurch, Lawrence Watson, and



#### *Michael Orfinger*, have become **Certified Electronic Discovery Specialists ("CEDS")**, credentialed by the technology community's Association of E-Discovery Specialists. We are now prepared to serve as Special Masters (Magistrates under the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure) to assist in e-discovery programs. Early, proactive involvement of an e-discovery special master or mediator, educated in the realm of electronic discovery, may yield immediate benefits in both the efficiency and economy of litigation and keep the discovery process on track to produce the best information necessary available for trial or settlement.

#### **CONSTRUCTION LAW**

Our specialty practice group of experienced construction defect mediators has expertise in organizing the diverse interests present in a multiparty, multi-issue construction case, breaking down the issues, one piece at a time, and delving into the details to determine what's really important. Developed techniques are utilized as needed to efficiently deal with a number of disparate parties and interests in the complex case. Our team is equipped to assist in managing the litigation by resolving discovery disputes and narrowing issues; thus shaping the case for eventual settlement negotiations. Creatively, common sense and perseverance mark the work of our construction group.

## SPECIAL MASTER/ MAGISTRATE APPOINTMENT

Our court-appointed masters and magistrates perform a wide variety of tasks. They serve various roles in pretrial discovery and proceedings, make recommendations and submit reports to judges, help administer class actions and settlements, conduct private civil trials and make decisions based on a judicial reference or the parties' consent and become engaged in post-trial proceedings to administer settlements. When litigation is pending, the specialists of Upchurch Watson White & Max often work with the courts, counsel and parties as third-party neutral case managers to amicably resolve as many procedural and legal disputes as possible, helping streamline and accelerate the litigation process and bring it to successful closure



#### MEDIATED CASE MANAGEMENT

Mediated Case Management is a unique blend of facilitative and adjudicative

processes aimed at cost effectively and efficiently managing complex, multiparty litigation. Developed and refined by Upchurch Watson White & Max principals, Mediated Case Management seeks to mediate the procedural conduct of major lawsuits in order to establish parallel tracks to achieve both settlement and litigation goals.

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