

January 5, 2023



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ARC Is Now Women and Minority-Owned and Operated

We are pleased to announce that as of January 1, 2023, Nicole Bethurum and Marjorie Luna are the new owners of Alternative Resolution Centers (ARC) following the retirement of founders Steve Davis and Lee Friedman. ARC was founded in 1987. Marjorie joined ARC in 1996 and was the Director of Operations before becoming a co-owner. Nicole joined ARC in 2001 and was the Vice President prior to the acquisition. The new ownership brings 40+ years of combined management experience in the dispute resolution industry and a vision for the future.

While the founders have prepared for retirement over the past three years, Nicole and Marjorie have spearheaded the company's operations, overseeing the budget and cash outlay and the coordination of more than 70 retired judicial officers and attorneys. Their first major initiative as owners was the location, design, and buildout of the new Los Angeles - Westwood office located at 10990 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 900, Los Angeles, CA 90024. The new innovative, upgraded facility is designed to be conducive to in-person, hybrid, and zoom hearings.

ARC has grown substantially since Nicole and Marjorie took the reins three years ago. They are planning for further expansion. In 2023, ARC is scheduled to secure new space for the downtown Los Angeles office, which we will upgrade with the same advanced technologies and layout as the Los Angeles - Westwood office. ARC's Ventura office will stay in the same prime location near the Ventura County Superior Court.

The private dispute resolution industry changed forever in March 2020 when California courts, law offices, and businesses went into shutdown. ARC predicted and prepared for this change, successfully transitioning the hearings to a virtual format and becoming a trendsetter in remote technology. The economic disruption caused by the shutdown triggered a wave of corporate disputes, and the courts remain backlogged. The demand for private dispute resolution spiked, and the industry saw increases in hourly rates and filing fees. New operational efficiencies in the past three years have allowed ARC to shelter the clients from a significant fee increase. ARC's original vision was to assemble the best neutrals panel and provide their services in a structure and environment that would facilitate the best possible result. "Although there will be future modernization and expansion, the heart of ARC will never change. It will only get better." Says Nicole.

ARC's new all-female ownership will combine their views while retaining the original values to bring the best of everything. The best Neutrals. The best facilities. The best financial efficiencies. Our vision for the future includes building a more diverse panel to reflect today's world. The new owners will make ARC and its Neutrals large enough to be extraordinary in many specialties while at the same time being small enough to continue to be personal and accessible rather than institutional. That's a promise.

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Alternative Resolution Centers, LLC, (ARC) is celebrating 35 years of outstanding service to the legal community. Since 1987, ARC has successfully administered arbitrations, mediations, references and bench trials in both state and federal court, involving civil disputes, probate and family law matters. Our distinguished panel of retired justices, judges and prominent attorneys handles a wide variety of cases nationwide. The use of virtual platforms such as Zoom has enabled ARC to host hearings internationally and resolve disputes throughout the world, resulting in consistently high settlement rates. Learn more at www.arc4adr.com.