#### Ruti Bell C.V. Mediator and Arbitrator – West Palm Beach, Florida

# FL CERTIFIED COUNTY, CIRCUIT CIVIL, FAMILY & APPELLATE MEDIATOR FINRA ARBITRATOR - PRO BONO IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY

#### **MEDIATION & CLOSURE GROUP LLC**

#### **New York University**

#### West Palm Beach, Florida

As President of MEDIATION & CLOSURE GROUP, I head an Alternative Dispute Resolution practice which largely consists of pre- and post-suit family law cases, landlord-tenant and real property cases, general commercial litigation, complex employment law cases, Americans with Disabilities cases, and discrimination cases in employment, housing, education, and places of public accommodations.

I serve as a mediator for the 15th and 17th judicial circuits and am also a pro bono attorney at Americans for Immigrant Justice, an award-winning non-profit law firm that protects and promotes the basic human rights of immigrants.

I have lectured nationally on various civil rights matters, and have presented on civil rights for CLE and CME credits.

# **Experience**

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#### **President**

**Company Name MEDIATION & CLOSURE GROUP LLC** 

<u>Dates Employed Nov 2016 – Present</u>

**Employment Duration 1 yr** 

Location BOCA RATON, FLORIDA

Ruti is President and Senior Mediator of MEDIATION & CLOSURE GROUP. Her Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) practice largely consists of pre and post suit family law cases, general commercial litigation, complex employment law cases, Americans with Disabilities cases, and discrimination cases in employment, housing, education, and places of public accommodations.

Ruti is a Florida Certified County, Circuit Civil, Family and Appellate Mediator, and a member of the Florida Academy of Professional Mediators, Inc., the Association of South Florida Mediators and Arbitrators, the Florida Association of Woman Lawyers, as well as the American Bar Association, where she serves on the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Committee, as well as the Rights of Women Committee.

Ruti is also a FINRA arbitrator and an attorney, licensed in New York.

Arbitrator

Company Name FINRA (Financial Industry Regulatory Authority)

<u>Dates Employed Sep 2017 – Present</u>

**Employment Duration 2 mos** 

**Location Southeastern United States** 

FINRA is a not-for-profit organization organized by Congress to protect America's investors by making sure that the broker-dealer industry operates fairly and honestly. I am proud be a FINRA arbitrator and my contribution to be a part of FINRA's dedication to investor protection and market integrity though effective and efficient regulation of broker dealers.

**Pro Bono Attorney** 

Company Name AMERICANS FOR IMMIGRANT JUSTICE, Children's Legal Program

<u>Dates Employed Feb 2017 – Present</u>

**Employment Duration 9 mos** 

**Location Miami, Florida** 

Americans for Immigrant Justice is an award-winning non-profit law firm that protects and promotes the basic human rights of immigrants. In Florida and on a national level, it champions the rights of

unaccompanied immigrant children; advocates for survivors of trafficking and domestic violence; serves as a watchdog on immigration detention practices and policies; and speaks for immigrant groups who have particular and compelling claims to justice. I am proud to be a part of the pro bono team of attorneys engaged in such important, fulfilling and meaningful work.

Mediator

**Company Name 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT** 

<u>Dates Employed Feb 2017 – Present</u>

**Employment Duration 9 mos** 

**Location WEST PALM BEACH, DELRAY BEACH** 

The Fifteenth Judicial Circuit's Alternative Dispute Resolution Office (ADRO) utilizes certified mediators, like myself, who assist the parties to reach a mutually acceptable agreement. The court program's mediators mediate family, juvenile dependency, and county court matters. I am honored to be a part of this incredible program.

**Legal Counsel** 

**Company Name MARC BELL CAPITAL** 

Dates Employed Jun 2002 - Jun 2016

**Employment Duration 14 yrs 1 mo** 

**Location Boca Raton, Florida** 

Assisted and advised on legal issues including employment, labor, real estate, contract disputes and general commercial litigation matters.

#### Assistant Attorney General / Disability Rights Project Coordinator

#### Company Name STATE OF NEW YORK, OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, CIVIL RIGHTS BUREAU

<u>Dates Employed Aug 1995 – Nov 2001</u>

**Employment Duration 6 yrs 4 mos** 

**Location 120 BROADWAY, NYC** 

Ruti joined the Civil Rights Bureau of the New York State Attorney General's Office, in 1995, where she served as an Assistant Attorney General, as well as Deputy Bureau Chief.

Ruti has handled all phases of litigation from investigation to pleadings, discovery, trial and appeal, in complex affirmative civil rights cases, in federal and state court.

In addition, Ruti has lectured and trained private and public entities, including police departments and code enforcement officials, regarding state and federal disability rights laws and specialized in enforcement of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Ruti has also actively lectured at state and national conferences, including State Human Rights agencies, the American Bar Association, and the National Association of Attorneys General Civil Rights Conferences.

#### Media (4)

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PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NY VS. TOWN OF HUNTINGTON

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NY VS. TOWN OF HUNTINGTON

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PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NY VS. GUTHRIE MEDICAL GROUP

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NY VS. GUTHRIE MEDICAL GROUP

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#### PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NY VS. SCHOHARIE AND DELAWARE COUNTIES

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<u>ATTORNEY GENERAL - AGREEMENT WITH LOCAL HOSPITALS TO PROVIDE SIGN LANGUAGE</u> INTERPRETERS

# <u>ATTORNEY GENERAL - AGREEMENT WITH LOCAL HOSPITALS TO PROVIDE SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS</u>

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#### **Law Clerk**

**Company Name UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE** 

<u>Dates Employed Jan 1994 – May 1994</u>

**Employment Duration 5 mos** 

Location Jacob K Javits Building, 26 Federal Plaza, New York, NY

As a law clerk, I prepared pre-hearing motions and bench memoranda, conducted research of novel legal issues, and drafted decisions taken under advisement.

# **Education**

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## **New York University**

<u>Degree Name Bachelor's Degree</u>

Field Of Study Political Science and Government

<u>Dates attended or expected graduation 1988 – 1991</u>

<u>Activities and Societies: While attending NYU, I worked in the Hagop Kevorkian Center for Near Eastern</u> Studies.

Received BA in Political Science. Graduated in 3 years. Dean's List Spring 1989, Spring & Fall 1990, Spring 1991.

Elisabeth Haub School of Law

formerly Pace Law School

#### **Pace University School of Law**

Degree Name Juris Doctor (J.D.)

Field Of Study LAW

Dates attended or expected graduation 1991 – 1994

Activities and Societies: RESEARCH & WRITING EDITOR, INTERNATIONAL LAW REVIEW

Graduated with a JD Degree in 1994.
Ranking Scholar - Spring 1994
Deans List - Fall 1992, Fall 1993
American Jurisprudence Award, Corporations
Research & Writing Editor, International Law Review

## Townsend Harris High School at Queens College

<u>Degree Name High School</u>

Field Of Study Humanities

Dates attended or expected graduation 1984 – 1988