


BEST LAWYERS IN DALLAS


John DeGroote

MEDIATION

John DeGroote's phone rings when people find themselves unable to resolve seemingly intractable business disputes—whether they're in litigation or on their way there. They come from across Texas and beyond for his creative approach to complex problems.

DeGroote occupies a unique place among mediators. He understands the forces—both the obvious and the unseen—in conflict because he's occupied literally every seat at the table. He knows what it's like to make the “bet the company” decision because he's been there as a plaintiff, as a defendant, and as counsel to each.

With experience as a former general counsel to a global technology consulting firm, where he previously served as its longtime chief litigation counsel, DeGroote believes there is no substitute for experience. In addition to his *D Magazine* honor, DeGroote was among only 48 recently featured in the *National Law Journal's* inaugural ADR Champions list of the top ADR professionals in the U.S. in 2016.

DeGroote is leading a new breed of mediators, breaking the traditional mold for how to get deals done. He prefers candid, informal discussions even before a mediation begins to develop his settlement strategy earlier in the process, and increasingly he's engaged before a lawsuit is even filed—often resolving disputes before they're made public. Drawing from his consulting firm experience, DeGroote frequently uses tools like decision trees and mind maps to view conflict from different perspectives.

DeGroote believes that physical space is important. His mediation facility reflects dozens of ideas he gathered as a client and counsel in over 200 mediations around the country. His mediation center is a converted Deep Ellum warehouse designed to provide a comfortable place to listen, think, talk, and decide.

DeGroote's approach, talents, and results place him among today's most innovative and effective mediators. One litigator who mediated a case with DeGroote put it this way: “John can fashion common ground out of thin air.”

EDUCATION

B.A., Mississippi State University
J.D., Duke University School of Law

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