



2016

An **ALM** Publication

THE NATIONAL LAW JOURNAL

FEBRUARY 29, 2016

JOHN DEGROOTE DEGROOTE PARTNERS, LLC



PIONEER SPIRIT John DeGroot is a former general counsel and chief litigation counsel for a global consulting firm, now serving as a mediator, arbitrator and court-appointed trustee in significant business disputes. John has served as the lead settlement negotiator in hundreds of cases, mediating and negotiating settlements on behalf of corporate and individual clients in more than 20 states. With experience as a litigator, corporate counsel, and business executive, he brings rare and valuable perspective to dispute resolution. John has seen disputes from every angle: as the client, as in-house counsel, as outside counsel, as an arbitrator, and as a mediator. He's clear on what actually gets complex cases resolved — and how that has changed over the past 25 years.

TRAILS BLAZED Looking to redefine the mediation process and client experience from the ground up, John is proud to have founded DeGroot Partners. The DeGroot Partners team leverages more than 75 years of combined business leadership expertise and legal experience to help businesses of all types navigate conflict and face material legal, financial, and leadership challenges. Based in Dallas but with a national reach, DeGroot Partners has first-hand experience in significant, high-pressure matters. Team members have been there when a “bet the company” case wouldn't settle; they have guided business interests through reorganizations and business wind-downs; and they know what unexpected recoveries can mean to everyone involved.

FUTURE EXPLORATIONS When asked to look to the future regarding trends and challenges in mediation, he states “the future of mediation is here now.” John's direct and creative approach to problem-solving exemplifies how ADR is adapting to the evolving nature of business conflicts and the value that parties place in finding resolution with greater speed than the courts can provide. Unlike a more traditional approach to mediation, John has been known to re-engage parties weeks (or months) after a mediation has concluded without agreement; he has been known to address opposing sides with an open letter outlining steps that each side would need to take to reach resolution; and he has been known to cut through highly complex disputes to find key issues impeding a deal. “Everybody has something to get them to settlement,” he says. “It's my job to find what that is and give it to them.”