

# JAMES W. FUHRMEISTER

*Mediator*

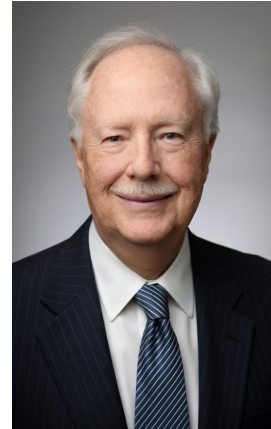
## **EASTERN SHORE MEDIATION**

*Probate · Fiduciary Disputes · Complex Civil Matters*

(205) 531-1116

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Fairhope, Alabama



## **PROFILE**

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Founder of Eastern Shore Mediation, a private mediation practice in Fairhope, Alabama, focused on complex probate, fiduciary, and high-value civil matters. Forty years of Alabama legal experience — thirty in private practice and as an Assistant District Attorney, ten on the probate court bench.

## **EXPERIENCE**

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### **Mediator**

*2026 – Present*

*Eastern Shore Mediation, Fairhope, Alabama*

- Private mediation practice focused on complex probate, fiduciary, and high-value civil matters.
- Recent matters include a multi-million-dollar trust and fiduciary dispute resolved through mediation.

### **Judge of Probate**

*2008 – 2018*

*Shelby County, Alabama*

- Appointed by Governor Bob Riley in March 2008; elected to a full term in 2012.
- Presided over the full range of probate matters: contested estates, will contests, guardianship and conservatorship proceedings, and fiduciary disputes.
- Sat as a Special Circuit Court Judge.
- Presided over the Shelby County Mental Health Court — a collaborative program connecting defendants with serious mental illness or intellectual disability to treatment resources in lieu of incarceration.

## **Attorney**

1978 – 2008

*Assistant District Attorney and Private Practice, Alabama*

- Thirty years of Alabama legal practice prior to appointment to the bench.

## **MEDIATION PRACTICE AREAS**

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### **Probate Mediation**

Contested estates, will contests, and fiduciary disputes among heirs and beneficiaries.

### **Fiduciary Disputes**

Trustee and beneficiary disputes, accounting challenges, breach-of-duty and removal petitions.

### **Complex Civil Matters**

Multi-party commercial litigation, business divorce, partnership dissolution, and matters with intersecting probate or fiduciary issues.

## **EDUCATION & BAR ADMISSION**

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**Juris Doctor** — Birmingham School of Law

**Bachelor of Arts** — Birmingham-Southern College

**Alabama State Bar** — Admitted 1978

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

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- **Alabama State Bar** — Dispute Resolution; Real Property, Probate, and Trust
- **American Bar Association** — Real Property, Trust & Estate Law; Dispute Resolution; Litigation

## **SPEAKING**

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Alabama State Bar · Alabama Probate Judges Association · Leadership Shelby County  
· Leadership Birmingham

## **HONORS & RECOGNITION**

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### **Criminal Justice Award of the Year**

*National Alliance on Mental Illness, Alabama, 2011*

For service with the Shelby County Mental Health Court and as an advocate for the mentally ill.

## **CIVIC & BOARD SERVICE**

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Leadership Shelby County · Shelby Volunteers In Service, Inc. · Harrison Regional Library · Smith Scholarship Foundation, Inc.