JO COLBERT STANLEY

ARBITRATOR | MEDIATOR | SPECIAL MAGISTRATE



Jo Colbert Stanley is an arbitrator, mediator, and special magistrate with over twenty years of legal experience. She serves on the AAA, FINRA, and IYAC panels and focuses her neutral practice on maritime, commercial, securities, and insurance disputes. Her work combines subject-matter expertise with formal dispute resolution training and extensive experience presiding over administered proceedings.

Jo is a Florida Supreme Court-qualified arbitrator, a certified mediator in both circuit civil and county court, and a Chair-qualified public arbitrator with FINRA. She serves on the commercial and consumer panels of the American Arbitration Association, and has served as both panel and sole arbitrator with the International Yacht Arbitration Council. She is a member of the Houston Maritime Arbitrators Association and also holds a Diploma in International Maritime Arbitration as a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (FCIArb). In 2023, she was selected as an Associate (2023–2025 class) of the prestigious College of Commercial Arbitrators.

A summa cum laude graduate of Penn State, Jo earned her J.D. with high honors from Widener Law Commonwealth and her LL.M. in ADR from Nova Southeastern University (NSU), where she is currently completing a Ph.D. in Conflict Analysis & Resolution. She has been inducted into Phi Kappa Phi for academic excellence at every academic level.

Nationally recognized for her leadership in the dispute resolution field, Jo is a former Chair of the Federal Bar Association's ADR Section, a current officer of its Admiralty Law Section, and a three-term Chair of the Broward County Bar Association's Admiralty & Maritime Law Section. She also serves on the Board of Directors for Seafarers' House at Port Everglades and is a proud member of the Levan Ambassadors Board at Nova Southeastern University and the Fellows of the American Bar Foundation. She serves on the Broward County Marine Advisory Committee, offering guidance on maritime policy, infrastructure, and community engagement initiatives that impact the region's waterways and marine industry.

With a compass set by law, the sea, and a commitment to continued education, Jo is a published author, frequent speaker, and trusted trainer on issues ranging from maritime law and employment policy to ethical practice and ADR systems design. With every case, client, and classroom, Jo advances a simple mission: to resolve conflict with integrity, elevate underrepresented voices, and strengthen the systems that shape our shared future.

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(954) 224-6999 | jo@lawstanley.com | www.lawstanley.com

EXPERIENCE

Stanley Legal Services LLC, Fort Lauderdale, FL **2004 – present**
Managing Member
Jo operates a full-time neutral practice as an independent arbitrator, mediator, and special magistrate, with a primary focus on maritime, commercial, securities, and insurance disputes. She serves on the American Arbitration Association's Commercial and Consumer Panels, FINRA's public arbitration panel (Chair and expungement-qualified), and the International Yacht Arbitration Council's roster of maritime arbitrators. She is a Florida Supreme Court-qualified arbitrator and certified circuit civil and county mediator. In her capacity as Special Magistrate, she presides over evidentiary hearings and issues written final decisions. She previously served as a Traffic Hearing Officer for Florida's 17th Judicial Circuit, exercising quasi-judicial authority.

Stanley Yacht Services, Inc., Fort Lauderdale, FL **2004 – present**
Vice President and COO
Stanley Yacht Services delivers comprehensive vessel management and support for private yacht owners, with year-round service packages including project oversight, maintenance, and charter preparation. Jo oversees business operations, compliance, and branding while also working hands-on in charter support and crew roles. In-house counsel; regulatory compliance and safety officer. Mate/deckhand, purser, and chief stew on Stanley Yacht Services' charter yacht 61' M/Y *Freedom.* Mate/deckhand, stew: M/Y *Sea Star;* M/Y *Pura Vida*; M/Y *Firefly;* M/Y *Sweetie*.

Colodny Fass, Sunrise, FL **2005 – 2026**
Director Of Maritime Affairs
Oversaw the development of the firm's maritime practice, advising on marine insurance, vessel transactions, regulatory compliance, and industry contracts. Provided legal guidance in complex maritime and commercial matters.

Of Counsel
Handled commercial, insurance, and regulatory disputes, including litigation and advisory matters.

Young Conaway Stargatt & Taylor, LLP, Wilmington, DE **2000-2003**
Associate
Jo practiced general litigation and employer defense in federal and state courts, preparing for and participating in trials, appellate arguments, and administrative hearings. She led forensic document analysis and case evaluation, advised employers on sexual harassment and HR policy, and prepared visa petitions for foreign workers.

Marshall Dennehey Warner Coleman & Goggin, Harrisburg, PA **1994-1998**
Regional HR manager
Jo oversaw HR functions for two branch offices, including staff supervision, performance reviews, compliance, and recruitment. She also managed office operations and facilities in alignment with legal and regulatory requirements.

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EDUCATION

Nova Southeastern University, Halmos College of Arts and Sciences, Davie, FL (*currently enrolled*)

- Ph.D. Candidate (Conflict Analysis & Resolution) – Department of Conflict Resolution Studies

Nova Southeastern University, College of Psychology, Davie, FL (*currently enrolled*)

- M.Sc. Student (General Psychology) – Department of Psychology & Neuroscience

Nova Southeastern University, Shepard Broad College of Law, Davie, FL - 2020

- LL.M. Alternative Dispute Resolution and Litigation; Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society.

Widener University School of Law, Harrisburg, PA - 2000

- Juris Doctor (*magna cum laude*). President - Moot Court Honor Society; Outstanding Minority Scholar; Widener Scholar; Chief Justice Nix Scholar; Outstanding Service Award; Order of the Barristers; Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society.

Pennsylvania State University, Harrisburg, PA - 1996

- Bachelor of Science - Criminal Justice (*summa cum laude*); GPA 4.0; Class rank: 1. Merit scholar; Andrew S. Donahue Criminal Justice Scholar Award; Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society.

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LICENSES, CERTIFICATES, & MEMBERSHIPS

- Licensed Attorney - Admitted to the Supreme Court of the United States; State Bars in Florida and Delaware; U.S. District Courts of Northern District of Florida, Southern District of Florida, District of Delaware, and the United States Courts of Appeal (Third Circuit)
- Florida Supreme Court Certified Circuit Civil and County Mediator and Qualified Arbitrator
- Pinellas County Special Magistrate
- Fellow, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (FCIArb); Diploma, International Maritime Arbitration (DipCIArb)
- International Yacht Arbitration Council Certified Arbitrator
- American Arbitration Association (Commercial and Consumer Panel)
- FINRA Public Arbitrator (Chair, Expungement and Statutory Discrimination qualified)
- Houston Maritime Arbitrators Association
- Federal Bar Association (Chair, ADR Section; Secretary, Admiralty Law Section); American Bar Association (Fellow, Dispute Resolution Section 2021)
- Broward County Bar Association (Chair – Admiralty/Maritime Law Committee)
- Associate, College of Commercial Arbitrators, Class of 2023-2025
- Association of South Florida Mediators & Arbitrators
- Florida Academy of Professional Mediators
- Fort Lauderdale Mariners Club (Officer)
- International Yacht Brokers Association
- Marine Industries Association of South Florida
- SEALI (Southeastern Admiralty Law Institute)
- Port Everglades Association
- U.S. Coast Guard/Maritime Professional Training (SCTW and certified medical first aid provider)
- USCIB Solo Arbitrator (US Council for International Business)
- Seafarers' House Port Everglades (Board of Directors)
- WISTA (Women's International Shipping & Trading Association) – Co-Chair, Yachting Committee
- Broward County Marine Advisory Committee (Appointed Member)
- NSU Levan Ambassadors Board
- Professional Women in Yachting
- Arbitral Women

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RECENT PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

Stanley, J. (2025). *The Party-Appointed Arbitrator's Dilemma: Integrity in Focus Best Practices for a Party-Appointed Arbitrator.* The Resolver (Spring), Federal Bar Association ADR Section, pp. 4-5. https://www.fedbar.org/alternative-dispute-resolution-section/wp-content/uploads/sites/111/2025/02/The-Resolver-Spring-2025.pdf

Stanley, J. (2023). *Maritime Arbitration 101*. Quimbee. https://www.quimbee.com/cle/courses/maritime-arbitration-101

Stanley, J. (2022). "*To Break Out or Not To Break Out: Caucus Considerations*." Florida Academy of Professional Mediators.

Stanley, J. (2022). *Negotiation for Attorneys: Strategies & Tactics.* Quimbee. https://www.quimbee.com/cle/courses/negotiation-for-attorneys-strategies-tactics

Stanley, J. (2021). *Escrow-A-Go-Go: Making Money Moves*. Compass, (Aug/Sept), 36. https://iyba.org/compass-issues/3d-flip-book/igJ1CtkNm34nWR9Y.pdf?fb3d-page=1

Stanley, J. (2021). *Mediation Preparation for Attorneys: The ABC's To Your Client's Best Mediation*. The Florida Bar and Quimbee. https://www.quimbee.com/cle/courses/mediation-preparation-for-attorneys-the-abc-s-to-your-client-s-best-mediation

Stanley, J. (2020). *Boatyard & Marine Insurance Tips: Your Yacht's in The Slings; Who's on The Hook* [Webinar]. Broward County Bar Association. https://cle.browardbar.org/us/Admiralty-Webinar-Boatyard-_-Marine-Insurance-Tips-Your-Yacht%E2%80%99s-In-The-Slings;-Who%E2%80%99s-On-The-Hook/p/158905#

Stanley, J. (2019). *Tech-ethical Considerations for Florida Mediators Offering Virtual Dispute Resolution Services.* The Common Ground, 1(3), 3–6. https://flabaradr.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/The-Common-Ground-Fall-Winter-2019.pdf

Stanley, J. (2019). *Why Choose Private Yacht Mediation? Mitigate the Mutiny, Don't Litigate the Suit.* Compass, (October/November), 32. https://iyba.org/compass-issues/3d-flip-book/UDGQycks5weIYuKu.pdf?fb3d-page=10

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