



HON. JEROME M. BECKER

Former Chairman, New York State Housing Finance Agency

Hon. Jerome M. Becker has had a remarkable career with service in the court system, in the private sector, and in government. He has been a mediator and arbitrator with National Arbitration and Mediation since 2008 specializing in high-stakes dispute resolution. For over a decade, Judge Becker served as Chairman of the New York State Housing Finance Agency (“HFA”) in addition to other financing authorities. The mission of HFA was to preserve existing housing and create mechanisms for the production of new units. With the proceeds of taxable and tax-exempt bonds and low income tax credits, the HFA provided financing for its many programs, including the highly successful 80/20 program. Under that program, the landscape of New York City was virtually changed by the construction of many new apartment towers as a result of developers receiving low-cost financing from the sale of tax-exempt bonds in return for setting aside at least 20% of the apartments for low-income families.

During this time when Judge Becker managed the HFA, billions of dollars worth of bonds were issued, leading to the construction of thousands of apartment units for New Yorkers. He had a fiduciary responsibility to personally account for the financing on multiple development projects in terms of contract compliance across the board. As a result of Judge Becker’s keen understanding of financing coupled with his experience as an attorney in real estate matters for over three decades led to his appointment by the New York State Supreme Court, on numerous occasions, as a Mediator in complex commercial disputes.

As a mediator in the NY Supreme Court, Judge Becker presided over a wide variety of matters. Some representative cases include a dispute over the construction of steel staircases in a NYC subway station; a case involving the modernization of a major retail space on Madison Avenue; a dispute involving defective dry walls, warped floors and inadequate central air in a major condominium complex; and a dispute over the renovation of a medical teaching facility.

Judge Becker is considered to be an authority in construction law. His deep industry knowledge and business experience is invaluable to clients in structuring acceptable settlements to complex matters. As a mediator and arbitrator with NAM, he has addressed development issues involving failure to pay performance bonds, contractors abandoning work, design defects, changes to design, delays and environmental concerns. He has also presided over a myriad of complex construction defect cases involving alleged cost overruns in new residential towers, in a 100-year old condominium complex spanning a city block, and in a museum involving the installation of a steel beam/structure. He also has expertise in complex labor law cases involving falls from scaffolding, ladders, and significant heights. He has mediated and/or arbitrated cases involving the NY Labor Law code, and common-law negligence.

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION EXPERIENCE

- Business/Commercial
- Construction
- Employment
- Environmental Planning
- Finance
- Government Contracts
- Insurance/Re-Insurance Coverage
- International Law/Transactions
- Labor Law
- Land Use
- Mergers & Acquisitions
- Negligence
- Partnership Law
- Personal Injury
- Premises Liability
- Professional Liability

GOVERNMENT EXPERIENCE

- *Former Chairman*, New York State Housing Finance Agency; NY State Affordable Housing Agency; NY State Municipal Bond Bank Agency; Tobacco Settlement Financing Corporation; NY State Project Finance Agency
- *Former Vice Chairman*, State of New York Mortgage Agency
- *Former Director*, New York State Mortgage Loan Enforcement and Administration Corporation; New York State Housing Trust Fund Corporation; Homeless Housing Assistance Corporation
- *Former Commissioner*, New York State Athletic Commission
- *Former Chief Inspector*, New York State Athletic Commission
- *Former Chair/Commissioner*, New York City Local Conditional Release Commission
- *Former Chair*, New York City Youth Board; Mayor's Task Force on Community Schools
- *Former Co-Chair*, Mayor's Task Force on Youth Services
- *Former Member*, Mayor's Advisory Committee on Poverty; New York City Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (Executive Committee); Mayor's Commission on Youth and Physical Fitness; New York City Manpower Planning Council; Task Force of Standards and Goals for Criminal Justice Planning of the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services
- *Former Commissioner*, New York City Human Rights Commission
- *Former Member*, New York City Board of Correction
- *Former Assistant Commissioner*, New York City Department of Public Events
- *Former Counsel*, Mayor's Committee on Real Estate Development
- *Former Member*, Mayor's Advisory Council on Adoptions; Consumer Council New York City Department of Consumer Affairs

JUDICIAL EXPERIENCE

- *Special Disciplinary Referee*, Appellate Division, First & Second Departments
- *Special Master*, Supreme Court of the State of New York
- *Mediator*, Supreme Court of the State of New York
- Referee - Supreme Court of the State of New York
- *Member* - Appellate Division, Second Department; Subcommittee on Re-admission to the Bar

- *Former Judicial Hearing Officer*, New York City Criminal Court
- *Former Acting Criminal Court Judge*, New York City Criminal Court
- *Former Justice*, Family Court, State of New York
- *Receiver* - Supreme Court of the State of New York

EDUCATION

- New York University School of Law, J.D.
- Hofstra University, B.S.

PROFESSIONAL LICENSES

- New York , Pennsylvania, District of Colombia, and Colorado State
- Appellate Division of the Supreme Court of the State of New York
- U.S. Supreme Court
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Second Circuit
- South and Eastern District of New York Federal District Court
- U.S. Tax Court
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces

HONORS & AWARDS

- Frank Schnurr Americanism Award
- New York City Council Citation
- Public Service Award , New York Metropolitan Coordinating Council on Jewish Poverty Award
- Bravery Commendation, New York City Police Department
- Public Service Award, Lower East Side Jewish Community Council
- Humanitarian Award, Kings County War Veterans
- Myrtle Wreath Award, Hadassah New York City Chapter
- Public Service Award, Ohel Children's Home
- Man of the Year, South Shore Division of Young Men's Division of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies

MEMBERSHIPS & PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- New York County Lawyers Association
- New York City Association of Family Court Judges
- Puerto Rican Bar Association
- New York State Judicial Court Committee for Court Records.