



New York
Law Journal
Reader Rankings

Top Ten
Best Individual Mediator
John DiBlasi
(NAM)
2011

New York
Law Journal
Rankings

Winner
Best Individual
Mediator
NAM
2010

HON. JOHN P. DIBLASI (RET.)
Justice of the Supreme Court, Westchester

Hon. John P. DiBlasi was a consummate jurist and has an exceptional reputation as an ADR professional. Since becoming a full time mediator, he has been named by the New York Law Journal Reader Rankings as one of the top two mediators in New York State in 2010 and 2011. He became a Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York at the age of 39, one of the youngest in the history of the state. He was the first Presiding Justice of the Commercial Division of the Supreme Court, Westchester County, where he presided over complex commercial litigation involving contracts, employment, real property/land use matters and environmental litigation. He also created the Alternative Dispute Resolution Program used successfully by that Court.

While on the bench, Judge DiBlasi developed extensive experience in the trial and settlement of complex commercial and personal injury matters. Since his departure, Judge DiBlasi has committed himself to a full-time ADR practice. He has developed a reputation for settling even the most complex matters and is persistent in following up with parties weeks and sometimes months later (post-mediation), in an effort to assist the parties in reaching a resolution. As an arbitrator, Judge DiBlasi has the skills necessary to digest and analyze expert testimony, complex contracts and documents, as well as the ability to render prompt and reasoned decisions. His experience encompasses a wide-variety of subject matter expertise; however, Judge DiBlasi can take on almost any subject matter that is brought before him, as he is known to be well prepared and adept at comprehending even the most challenging issues. Judge DiBlasi also maintains the highest rating of AV from the Martindale-Hubbell Peer Review Ratings System, attesting to his vast legal acumen and high ethical standards.

Some recent matters include a major entertainment law case involving a nationally syndicated media personality who was sued for libel arising out of the national broadcast of over the air comments; in addition to a complex personal injury case involving a young woman who was struck by a car and whose injuries allegedly caused her to develop a blood-clot which caused her death 6 weeks after the accident. Judge DiBlasi has also mediated and/or arbitrated hundreds of cases involving complex insurance coverage issues among multiple defendants; labor law cases where the injuries to employees have been in excess of seven figures; complex land use actions inclusive of large commercial developments, municipal projects, and allegations of non-compliance with SEQRA; and employment law matters involving sexual harassment, wrongful termination, claims under the Employee Retirement Income Securities Act, retaliation cases involving in-house "open door" policies, tortious interference with employment contracts and prospective business relations.

Judge DiBlasi is based in the New York Metro region but also hears cases throughout the country. In addition to his full-time practice in New York, he has handled significant, high-stakes matters in Boston, Chicago, Hartford, Las Vegas and Miami. He has facilitated the settlement of complex commercial litigation, personal injury, labor law, medical malpractice, entertainment law, land use and employment cases.

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION EXPERIENCE

- Business/Commercial
- Construction
- Employment
- Entertainment
- Environmental
- Government/Public Agencies
- Insurance/Re-Insurance Coverage
- International Law
- Labor Law
- Land Use
- Maritime/Jones Act
- Medical Malpractice
- Negligence
- Personal Injury
- Premises Liability
- Product Liability
- Professional Liability
- Toxic Torts

JUDICIAL EXPERIENCE

- Justice of the Supreme Court of New York, Westchester (1995-2004)
- Judge of the City Court of Mount Vernon (1990-1994)

PROFESSIONAL LICENSES

- New York State Bar (1981)
- U.S. District Court, Southern and Eastern Districts of New York (1981)

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

- Arbitrator & Mediator, National Arbitration & Mediation (NAM), (2005-2006) & (2009-Present)
- Deputy Commissioner, Westchester County Department of Emergency Services, (2007-2008)
 - Responsible for the administration and oversight of the agency's operations
- Chief of Staff, City of Mount Vernon, New York (2006-2007)
 - Responsible for the oversight and operation of approximately twenty city agencies and departments and more than 800 employees for the Mayor of the City
- Counsel, Clark Gagliardi & Miller (2004-2005)
 - Responsible for the litigation of substantial civil actions
- Officer, U.S. Army Reserve, Judge Advocate General's Corps (1990-1998)
 - Performed legal services overseas during three tours of duty in the Republic of Panama, in addition to West Point, New York, Fort Totten, New York, and Fort Dix, New Jersey.
 - Honorably discharged with the rank of Captain.
- Member, Westchester County Public Employment Relations Board (1988-1990)

- Mediated labor disputes and supervised the election of collective bargaining representatives
- Supervised the election process of collective bargaining representatives for civil service employees
- Partner, Pizzitola & DiBlasi, P.C. (1982-1990)
 - Represented plaintiffs and defendants in personal injury actions
- Examining Attorney, NYC Department of Investigation (1980-1982)
 - Handled matters involving white collar crime and official corruption

MEMBERSHIPS & PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Nominated as a respected and objective leader in County Land Use to attend Land Use Alliance Training program in conjunction with Pace University School of Law (2009)
- *Fellow*, American and New York Bar Foundations
- *Instructor*, New York State Judge's School
- *CLE Instructor*, New York State Bar Association
- *CLE Instructor*, New York State Trial Lawyers
- *CLE Instructor*, Westchester Bar Association

EDUCATION

- St. John's University School of Law, J.D. (1980)
- Syracuse University, AB (1977)
- Judge Advocate Officer's Basic Course (1990)
- Certificate in Human Resource Management, Villanova University (2005)

HONORS & AWARDS

- New York Law Journal Rankings Survey 2011, Top Ten -Best Individual Mediator Category
- New York Law Journal Rankings Survey 2010, Winner-Best Individual Mediator Category
- AV Rating, Martindale-Hubbell Peer Review Ratings System
- Pace University School of Law Adjunct Professor of the Year Award
- Pace University School of Law Award for Service to the Legal Community
- NY State Bar Association, Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service in the Field of Law Related Education

FORMAL ADR TRAINING

- CPR Institute Mediation Training, 2-day course, 14.5 Skills and 1.0 Ethics CLE Credits, (January 13-14, 2010)
- Completed Mediation Intensive Training, New York
- Center for Mediation in Law, Accredited Provider of CLE in the State of New York, 40 Hours, 36 CLE Credits

PUBLICATIONS

- "Preparing an Expert Witness is a Multi-Step Process," New York State Bar Journal (May 2003)
- "Thorough Trial Preparation is Vital for Courtroom Success," New York State Bar Journal (June 2002)

- “The Use of Depositions at Trial,” New York State Bar Journal (October 2001). Also published in “Deposition Practice and Practicalities in State and Federal Court,” by the Commercial and Federal Litigation Section Committee on Continuing Legal Education of the New York State Bar Association (2002), and in “Winning Depositions A-Z,” by the Trial Lawyers Section of the New York State Bar Association and Committee on Continuing Legal Education
- “Amending the Domestic Relations Enforcement Provisions: A Modest Proposal to Avoid Chaos in the Courts,” Domestic Law Review, Family Law Section, Family Law Review, New York State Bar Journal, (December 1996)
- “The Felony Hearing Process-Taking a Second Look,” New York State Bar Journal (September 1995), co-authored with Barry J. Skwiersky, Esq.
- “Preparing Your Witness for Trial,” New York State Bar Journal, (December 1993)