



**HON. GEORGE D. SALERNO (RET.)**  
*Justice of the Supreme Court, Bronx*

Hon. George D. Salerno, former Justice of the New York Supreme Court, Bronx County, retired from his position on the bench in December of 2009 to pursue a full-time career as a mediator and arbitrator with National Arbitration and Mediation. He graduated from Brooklyn Law School, and while serving as a member of the armed forces, was admitted to the Bar in 1961. After having been selected by Justice Arnold Fein to be his Court Attorney, Justice Salerno was appointed Assistant Commissioner and General Counsel to the City Department of Transportation and Chairman of the New York State Board of Elections. He then returned to private practice as a senior litigation attorney and subsequent partner of Fisher, Fallon, Salerno, Betlesky & Kelly where he litigated tort and commercial cases for over 20 years. In 2000, he was elected to the Civil Court, and in 2003 was elevated to Justice of the Supreme Court, Bronx County.

With over four decades of litigation and judicial expertise, having presided over thousands of cases and with more than 700 written opinions during his distinguished career on the bench, Justice Salerno has a wide-variety of expertise. Some representative matters include virtually every type of personal injury auto-accidents matter, premises liability and labor law case. He presided over a labor law case where a contractor was impaled by a steel bar when he fell from planks spanning a trench resulting in paraplegia. In another matter, alleging violations of OSHA and NY Labor Law Code Sections 200 and 376, janitors working for a grocery store claimed they sustained injuries having been locked in the store overnight with no emergency exit. He also has experience in legal malpractice matters, one of such cases involved fraud and breach of a retainer agreement, and the application of NY Judiciary Law 487. In both private practice and on the bench, Judge Salerno has handled many medical malpractice matters. Some representative cases include an alleged lack of informed consent to plastic surgery, failure to diagnose, severe brain damage, and wrongful death claims.

Judge Salerno also has a strong background in construction law. While at the Department of Transportation, he worked on a variety of different cases. Many of these matters involved construction and transportation issues, including the maintenance of all transit stations. As a senior litigation attorney, he helped to re-negotiate contracts on many occasions between contractors and the City of New York regarding multi-million dollar construction projects where there were alleged cost-overruns, defects, unanticipated problems, and non-performance. Judge Salerno presided over similar matters while on the bench including land use planning, zoning and development issues.

On April 18, 2009 Judge Salerno was presented with the Charles A. Rapallo Award from the Columbian Lawyers Association for the First Judicial Department of New York State. The award is named for the late Charles A. Rapallo, the first Italian-American judge appointed to the New York Court of Appeals. He served the Court from 1870 to 1887. Past recipients of the Rapallo award include U.S. Supreme Court Justices Antonin Scalia and Samuel Alito Jr., former Governor Mario M. Cuomo and former Mayor Rudolph Giuliani.

## ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION EXPERIENCE

- Business/Commercial
- Construction
- Employment
- Insurance/Re-Insurance Coverage
- Labor Law
- Medical Malpractice
- Negligence
- Personal Injury
- Premises Liability
- Product Liability
- Professional Liability

## JUDICIAL EXPERIENCE

- Justice of the Supreme Court of New York, Bronx County (2003-2010)
- Judge of the Civil Court of New York, (2000-2003)

## PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

- Senior Litigation Attorney & Subsequent Partner of Fisher, Fallon, Salerno, Betlesky & Kelly
- Assistant Commissioner and General Counsel to the City Department of Transportation
- Chairman of the New York State Board of Elections.
- Court Attorney, Justice Arnold Fein

## PROFESSIONAL LICENSES

- Admitted to practice in the State of New York (1961)

## HONORS & AWARDS

- Charles A. Rapallo Award, Columbian Lawyers Association for the 1<sup>st</sup> Judicial Department of NY State (2009)

## MEMBERSHIPS & PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- *Member*, New York City Bar
- *Member*, New York County Lawyers Association
- *Member*, Bronx County Bar Association
- *Member*, Columbian Lawyers Association.

## EDUCATION

- Brooklyn Law School, J.D.