

HON. WILLIAM C. THOMPSON (RET.)

Associate Justice, Appellate Division, 2nd Department

Judge Thompson's remarkable and distinguished career as a prominent political and community leader makes him uniquely qualified to assist in facilitating settlement on almost any matter brought before him.

He is a decorated veteran of World War II and Brooklyn's first African-American state senator, elected to the New York State Senate in 1965 and serving for three years until 1968. One of his most significant achievements during this time was his work alongside Senator Robert F. Kennedy in establishing the Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation, the nation's first community development corporation. He was also chairman of the Joint Legislative Committee on Child Care Needs, and during his tenure; over twenty-five bills that he had sponsored were signed into law.

Judge Thompson then served on the New York City Council from 1969 to 1973. He was elected a Justice of the Supreme Court in 1974 and in November of 1974 he was designated an associate Justice of the Appellate Term, 2nd and 11th Districts (Kings, Richmond and Queens Counties). On January 18, 1978, he was appointed Assistant Administrative Judge in charge of the Supreme Court for Brooklyn and Staten Island. On December 8th, 1980, he was designated by Governor Carey an Associate Justice of the Appellate Division, Second Department. During this time, he also was a member of the New York State Commission on Judicial Conduct from 1990 to 1998.

As an Appellate Division Judge for over twenty (20) years he has analyzed over 24,000 cases, encompassing all types of litigation. He retired from the bench in January of 2001, and serves as a full-time mediator and arbitrator with National Arbitration and Mediation (NAM) and over the course of the last nine years, Judge Thompson's considerable experience has proven to be invaluable.

He has resolved all kinds of business, contract, and commercial matters, in addition to personal liability cases encompassing slip and falls, catastrophic injuries, wrongful death cases, labor law cases (§240(1) and 241(6)) and premises liability. Judge Thompson also has considerable construction law experience helping to settle cases involving defective drywall, negligently performed construction of military housing, defaulting subcontractors and defective work or design issues. He has worked as a private practitioner in an advisory role on complex construction and real estate matters involving complex project design issues, zoning regulations and engineering issues.

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION EXPERIENCE

- Automobile Accidents
- Business/Commercial
- Construction
- Employment
- International Law
- Insurance/Re-Insurance Coverage
- Labor Law
- Negligence
- Personal Injury
- Premises Liability
- Professional Liability
- Real Estate

JUDICIAL EXPERIENCE

- Associate Justice, Appellate Division, 2nd Department (1980-2000)
 - Member, New York State Commission on Judicial Conduct (1990-1998).
- Assistant Administrative Judge, Supreme Court (1978-1980)
- Associate Justice, Appellate Term, 2nd & 11th District (1976-1978)
- Justice, Supreme Court (1974-1976)

PROFESSIONAL LICENSES

- Admitted to practice in the State of New York
- U.S. District Court, Eastern and Southern Districts of New York
- U.S. Supreme Court

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

- New York City Council (1969-1973)
- Senator, New York State Senate (1965-1968)
 - Chairman, Joint Legislative Committee on Child Care Needs
 - Sponsored and passed over twenty-five bills
 - Established the Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation.

HONORS & AWARDS

- Benjamin N. Cardozo Award, Jewish Lawyer's Guild (1999)
- Harlan Fiske Stone Award, New York City Trial Lawyer's Association (2000)
- Annual Outstanding Achievement Award, Brooklyn Bar Association (2002)
- Distinguished Service Award, Brooklyn Bar Association (2007)

EDUCATION

- Brooklyn School of Law School, LL.B. (1954)

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES & MEMBERSHIPS

- *Distinguished Master*, appointed to serve on tri-panel for the Campaign for Fiscal Equity Litigation (2004)
- *Panelist*, Three-member court panel charged with New York City Public School Funding Reform (2006)
- *Co-Chairman*, Not Just Blacks and Jews in Conversation
- *Co-Chairman*, Committee to Promote Public Trust
- *Co-Chairman*, Confidence in the Legal System
- *Treasurer*, Judges and Lawyers Breast Cancer Alert (JALBCA)
- *Director*, Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation
- *Director*, Bedford Stuyvesant Youth-In-Action
- *Director*, Daytop Village
- *Former Regional Director*, N.A.A.C.P.
- *Former Member*, New York State Commission on Judicial Conduct
- *Past President*, Brooklyn Law School Alumni Association
- *Member*, Torah Club
- *Member*, American Bar Association
- *Member*, Brooklyn Bar Association
- *Member*, Metropolitan Black Bar Association Three Hundred and Ninety