

RICHARD P. BYRNE, ESQ.

Hearing Officer

Richard P. Byrne, Esq. began serving as a mediator during the early development of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) and has since built a distinguished career in the field. In 2025, for the eleventh consecutive year, Mr. Byrne was recognized as one of the Top Three Mediators in the United States by the *National Law Journal* "Best Of" survey. In addition to his mediation work, he is an experienced and well-trained arbitrator, known for his careful evaluation of facts and thoughtful application of the law and applicable rules. Mr. Byrne brings more than 40 years of legal experience to his work as a neutral. As a NAM Hearing Officer with over three decades of ADR experience, he has handled a wide range of complex disputes and is widely respected for his ability to guide parties toward resolution.

Mr. Byrne has successfully mediated issues in a wide variety of specialty areas, including commercial disputes, construction cases, employment discrimination claims, employment contract disputes, wage and hour/FLSA claims, complex personal injury and property damage claims, insurance and reinsurance matters, risk transfer disputes and life health, and disability claims. As an Arbitrator, he has presided over many commercial disputes, including construction claims, business and contract matters, as well as insurance coverage disputes.

In 2013, Mr. Byrne was selected by Kenneth R. Feinberg, the former Administrator of the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund, to assist in the mediation and resolution of Hurricane Sandy claims. He was also asked to join a sub-panel for the United States District Court to help resolve a backload of over 1,400 Hurricane Sandy lawsuits. Mr. Byrne is a member of the Mediation panels for both the United States District Court and the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of New York. In 2016, Mr. Byrne was appointed to serve on the Advisory Council to the ADR Department of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York.

Mr. Byrne was also ranked a Top Ten Mediator for the twelfth time by the 2026 New York Law Journal "Best Of" survey and was inducted into the survey's Hall of Fame. Additionally, he was voted a Top Three Mediator by the *Corporate Counsel* "Best Of" survey and named as a *National Law Journal* Alternative Dispute Resolution Champion, as part of a select nationwide group. He has been awarded an A-V rating by Martindale-Hubbell, the highest rating available, based on its peer review process, and has consistently been recognized by his peers as a New York Metro Super Lawyer.

Richard Byrne is available to mediate cases throughout the United States.

AREAS of EXPERIENCE

- Business/Corporate/Partnership
- Commercial
- Construction
- Construction Defect
- Employment Disputes
  - Employment Discrimination
  - Employment Contracts
  - Fair Labor Standards
  - Harassment
  - Wage & Hour Law
  - Wrongful Termination
- Insurance
- Negligence/Torts
- Personal Injury
  - Product Liability
- Property Damage
- Sexual Abuse/Harassment

LECTURES and PUBLICATIONS

- Speaker, *Resolving Coverage Disputes in Mediation*, webinar, Practicing Law Institute (PLI), 2023
- Co-presenter, NAM Academy: *Inside the Mind of the Mediator: Avoiding Impasse and Maximizing Outcomes in Mediation*, webinar presented by NAM (National Arbitration and Mediation), 2022
- Speaker, *The Means and Methods of Resolving Coverage Disputes in Mediation*, Lawline, 2021
- Speaker, *The Do's and Don'ts of Virtual ADR*, webinar presented to Chubb, 2021
- Author, *The Virtues of Virtual Alternative Dispute Resolution*, New York Real Estate Journal (NYREJ), 2021
- Author, *Construction Defect Claims: A Mediator's Perspective*, Defense Association of New York (DANY), *Defendant*, Winter Edition, 2021
- Speaker, ADR Committee Meeting featuring Hon. John P. DiBlasi (Ret.) and Richard P. Byrne, Esq., with the New York County Lawyers Association, 2020
- Panel Member, *The Mediators Speak - Mediating in the Virtual World*, webinar presented to the CLM Construction Conference, 2020
- Speaker, *Inside the Mind of a Mediator: Avoiding and Maximizing Outcomes in Mediation*, webinar presented to DANY (Defense Association of New York), 2020
- Speaker, *Resolving Coverage Disputes in Mediation*, webinar presented to Corporate Counsel Business Journal (CCBJ), 2020
- Speaker, *Reduce Time & Cost: Crafting Effective Arbitration Clauses*, webinar presented to Clear Law Institute, 2020
- Author, *Back to the Future – Where Does Mediation Go From Here?* Law.com, 2020
- Panel Member, *The Means and Methods of Resolving Coverage Disputes in Mediation*, webinar presented to the New York State Academy of Trial Lawyers, 2020
- Panel Member, *Resolving Coverage Disputes in Mediation*, webinar presented to the New York State Academy of Trial Lawyers, 2020
- CCBJ Interview, *Coming Face-To-Face with Virtual Alternative Dispute Resolution*, Corporate Counsel Business Journal (CCBJ), 2020
- Speaker, *An Introduction to the Use of Video Conferencing for Arbitration and Mediation and Its Benefits*, webinar presented by NAM (National Arbitration and Mediation), 2020
- Author, *The Virtues of Virtual ADR*, New York Law Journal, 2020
- Author, *Conditional and Alternative Demands/Offers Can Often Make the Difference in Mediation*, New York Law Journal, 2020
- Speaker, *Crafting Arbitration Clauses: How Specificity Reduces Dispute Time and Costs*, presented to Pryor Cashman, LLP, 2019
- Co-Author, *The Benefits of Early Mediation: The Path Least Taken Requires Commitment* (with Hon. Peter B. Skelos (Ret.), New York Law Journal ADR Special Report, 2019
- Author, *The Role of Humor in Mediation – No Laughing Matter!*, New York Law Journal, 2019
- Speaker, *Inside the Mind of a Mediator: Avoiding Impasse and Maximizing Outcomes in Mediation*, presented to Vela Insurance Services, 2019
- Speaker/Panel Member, *Inside the Mind of a Mediator: Avoiding Impasse and Maximizing Outcomes in Mediation*, Association of Corporate Counsel – New York City Chapter, Signature CLE, 2019
- Speaker, *Mediating Construction Defect Claims and Delay Claims*, presented to Troutman Sanders LLP, 2019
- Speaker/Panel Member, *In Mediation, Your Gotta Have (Good) Faith*, ACC-NYC Ethics Marathon, 2019
- Author, *Speak to Your Mediator – Early and Often!*, New York Law Journal, 2019
- Speaker/Panel Member, *Inside the Mind of a Mediator: Avoiding Impasse and Maximizing Outcomes in Mediation*, presented to Pryor Cashman, 2019

HONORS and AWARDS

- *New York Law Journal "Best Of" survey, Hall of Fame, 2026*
- *The Herald*, Top Lawyer of Long Island Award, 2023
- *National Law Journal* "Best Of" survey, Top Three Mediator in the United States, 2015 - 2025
- *New York Law Journal* "Best Of" survey, Top Ten – Best Individual Mediator Category, 2014 - 2023, 2025 - 2026

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

- L'Abbate, Balkan, Colavita & Contini, L.L.P.
  - Senior Counsel, 2021
  - Co-Managing Partner, 2002
  - Senior Partner, 1999
  - Partner, 1990
  - Associate, 1985
- Associate, Wilson, Elser, Moskowitz, Edelman & Dicker, 1982 - 1985

PROFESSIONAL LICENSES and ADMISSIONS

- United States District Court, Western District of New York, 2015
- United States District Court, Northern District of New York, 2009
- United States District Court, Eastern District of New York, 1989
- United States District Court, Southern District of New York, 1984
- Courts of the State of New York, 1983
- FLSA Mediation Training, Eastern District of New York
- United States District Court, Eastern District of New York, Certified Mediator
- United States District Court, Eastern District of New York, Mediation Panel
- United States Bankruptcy Court, Eastern District of New York, Mediation Panel

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS and ASSOCIATIONS

- Member, New York State Bar Association
- Member, Nassau County Bar Association

EDUCATION

- New York Law School, J.D., *magna cum laude*
- Saint Peter's College, B.A., *magna cum laude*