

HON. PETER B. SKELOS*

Associate Justice, Supreme Court of the State of New York, Appellate Division, Second Judicial Department (Ret.)

The Honorable Peter B. Skelos has served as a NAM Hearing Officer for more than 10 years. In his capacity as a Hearing Officer, Judge Skelos is known for his relentless pursuit in working with all parties towards a resolution. He arbitrates and mediates matters that span a broad array of practice areas including commercial disputes, construction contracts and construction defects, employment, healthcare, insurance coverage, medical malpractice, professional liability, sexual abuse/sexual harassment, labor and employment disputes, as well as personal injury, including construction injuries and NY labor law disputes. Judge Skelos' ability to approach matters fairly and in an unbiased manner combined with his even temperament makes him extremely well-suited to the role of arbitrator/mediator and an excellent choice for both sides of the bar. As a former appellate judge, Judge Skelos brings the expertise to address complex legal questions, making him exceptionally well-suited to the roles of arbitrator and mediator.

In 2026, Judge Skelos was once again recognized as a Top 10 Mediator in the New York Law Journal “Best Of” survey and was inducted into the survey’s Hall of Fame, adding to his previous five consecutive honors from 2018–2022 and recognition in 2024 and 2025. He has also been named a *National Law Journal* Alternative Dispute Resolution Champion, joining an elite group of only 46 hearing officers nationwide. Judge Skelos was selected as a *New York Super Lawyer* in 2017 and 2018 and has received numerous awards for exemplary public service. A careerlong member of the Nassau County Bar Association, he has been honored with the President’s Award for his leadership with the Lawyers Assistance Program and served three terms as administrative chair of the We Care Fund Advisory Board, where he remains an active member.

Judge Skelos' deep experience as a Hearing Officer includes a wealth of knowledge in construction matters. He has served as an arbitrator and mediator for claims relating to breach of contract, construction defect, change order requests, contract interpretation, insurance coverage disputes for claims of indemnification, and payment disputes. Representative arbitrations include (a) a claim for equitable adjustment of the contract price for the cost of extra work in the context of a complex construction project, (b) a multi-party claims alleging defects in the manufacturing and installation of windows and doors in connection with a significant commercial renovation project, (c) a claim for additional payments by a subcontractor who had to repair and retest equipment that was supplied by a separate third party supplier under a design-build contract, and (d) a claim for equitable adjustment to the contract price and an extension of time to install certain materials/equipment that the respondent alleged was already included in the existing contract price.

Prior to his career in arbitration and mediation, Judge Skelos enjoyed a distinguished judicial career spanning two decades. He served 11 years as an Associate Justice of the Appellate Division of the New York State Supreme Court, Second Judicial Department, retiring from the bench in 2015. His judicial service began in 1995 with his election to the District Court in Nassau County. Four years later, he was elected Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, 10th Judicial District, and in 2003 was appointed Associate Justice of the Appellate Term of the Supreme Court for the 9th and 10th Judicial Districts. In 2004, Governor George Pataki appointed him as an Additional Justice to the Appellate Division, Second Judicial Department—one of the busiest appellate courts in the United States. He was subsequently appointed and reappointed by Governors Eliot Spitzer and Andrew Cuomo as an Associate Justice of the Appellate Division and as a member of the Constitutional Court. Judge Skelos was rated “Highly Qualified” by the New York State Independent Judicial Election Qualification Commission.

**** Special administrative and hourly rates apply - please consult with your assigned Account Executive or Case Manager.***

Throughout his many years on the bench, Judge Skelos was known for having a keen legal intellect with an understanding of the professional pressures for the attorneys who appeared before him. He has a reputation for treating others in a fair and respectful manner and for arriving at well-reasoned and legally sound decisions. During his time as a trial and Appellate Division judge, Justice Skelos presided over scores of real estate, commercial, matrimonial, personal injury, and medical and dental malpractice cases. Prior to serving on the bench, he was a Senior Deputy Nassau County Attorney where he handled medical malpractice, civil rights, and personal injury matters. Thereafter, he was engaged in private practice where he managed a variety of cases including commercial civil litigation, civil rights, medical malpractice, and personal injury in state and federal courts. Drawing from his experience, he has lectured to bar associations and the judiciary on appellate practice, legal ethics, medical malpractice, and personal injury matters, and has presented continuing legal education programs in many subject areas, including Accommodations in the Workplace Under the ADA, commercial disputes, Best Practices in Alternative Dispute Resolution for Corporate Counsel, Best Practices in Alternative Dispute Resolution for Corporate Counsel, Crafting Effective Arbitration Clauses, construction defects, matrimonial, Fast-Track Surrogate's Court Litigation, and Arbitration and Mediation in the Workplace, among other topics.

Judge Skelos is available to arbitrate and mediate cases throughout the United States.

AREAS of EXPERIENCE

- Appellate Practice
- Attorney Malpractice/Legal Ethics
- Business/Corporate/Partnership
- Civil Rights
- Commercial
- Construction
- Construction Defect
- Dental Malpractice
- Employment Law
  - Labor Law/Labor Relations
- Healthcare Law
- Insurance
- Matrimonial/Family Law
- Medical Malpractice
- Negligence/Torts
- Personal Injury
  - Construction
  - Product Liability
- Professional Liability/Malpractice (Non-Medical)
- Real Estate Law
- Sexual Abuse/Harassment
- Trusts & Estates/Probate

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

Significant opinions authored by Judge Skelos as a Member of the Appellate Division

Majority Opinions

- People v. Brown, 122 AD3d 133, lv denied 24 NY3d 1042
- Braverman v. Bendiner & Schlesinger, Inc., 121 AD3d 353, lv denied 24 NY3d 913
- W. Park Associates, Inc. v. Everest Nat. Ins. Co., 113 AD3d 38 [2013]
- Cassie v. Cassie, 109 AD3d 337 [2013]
- People v. Dunbar, 104 AD3d 198 [2013], aff'd 24 NY3d cert. denied 135 S. Ct. 2052
- Brown v. Blumenfeld, 103 AD3d 45 [2012]
- William J. Jenack Estate Appraisers and Auctioneers, Inc. v. Rabizadeh, 99 AD3d 270 [2012], rev'd 952 NYS2d 197 [2013]
- People v. Picca, 97 AD3d 170 [2012]
- Matter of Giovanni S., 89 AD3d 252 [2011]
- People v. Clay, 88 AD3d 14 [2011)
- Caldwell v. Cablevision Systems Corp., 86 AD3d 46 [2011], aff'd 20 NY3d 365 [2013]
- Shaw v. Coach, 82 AD3d 98 [2011]

- Mixon v. TBV, Inc., 76 AD3d 144 [2010]
- Barkan v. Roslyn Union Free School Dist., 67 AD3d 61 [2009]
- Cotty v. Town of Southampton, 64 AD3d 251 [2009]
- People v. Diaz, 62 AD3d 157 [2009], aff'd 15 NY3d 40 [2010]
- Matter of Poldrugovaz, 50 AD3d 117 [2008]
- People v. Newton, 48 AD3d 115 [2007]
- People v. Elysee, 49 AD3d 33 [2007], aff'd 12 NY3d 100 [2009]
- Gross v. Gross, 36 AD3d 318 [2006]
- O'Brien v. Spitzer, 24 AD3d 9 [2005], rev'd 7 NY3d 239 [2006]

Dissenting Opinions

- Matter of Velasquez, 130 AD3d 1045 [concurring in part and dissenting in part] n People v. Palencia, 130 AD3d 1072
- Thaw v. North Shore University Hosp. 129 AD3d 937
- Matter of Marvin P. v. Rice, 120 AD3d 160 n Wagner v. Wody, 98 AD3d 965 [2012]
- People v. Freeman, 98 AD3d 682 [2012]
- Dupree v. Giugliano, 87 AD3d 975 [2011], aff'd as modified 20 NY3d 921 [2012]
- Love v. Rockwell's Intern. Enterprises, LLC, 83 AD3d 914 [2011]
- Barbieri v. Vokoun, 72 AD3d 853 [2010]
- Yelder v. Walters, 64 AD3d 762 [2009]
- Carpenter-Siracusa v. Siracusa, 34 AD3d 611 [2006]
- Cruz v. New York City Transit Authority, 31 AD3d 688 [2006], aff'd 8 NY3d 825
- Small v. Coney Is. Site 4A-1 Houses, Inc., 28 AD3d 741 [2006]
- TPZ Corp. v. Dabbs, 25 AD3d 787 [2006] [concurring in part and dissenting in part]
- Narayanan v. City of New York, 21 AD3d 533 [2005]

Concurring Opinions

- Adam K. v. Iverson, 110 AD3d 168 [2013]
- Palladino v. Lindenhurst Union Free School Dist., 84 AD3d 1194 [2011]
- Matter of Marie H., 25 AD3d 704 [2006] Matter of Velasquez, 130 AD3d 1045 [concurring in part and dissenting in part]

LECTURES and PUBLICATIONS

- Panelist, *Negotiating and Litigating Arbitration Clauses*, presented to the Nassau Academy of Law, 2024
- Panelist, *Inside the Mind of a Mediator: Avoiding Impasse and Maximizing Outcomes in Mediation*, webinar presented as part of the Bridge-the-Gap program to the New York City Bar Association, 2024
- Co-presenter, *Appraisal, Arbitration, Mediation in the Insurance Claim Process*, presented to the National Association of Public Insurance Adjusters (NAPIA), 2023
- Co-presenter, *Property Pitfalls-An Insider's Guide to First-Party Insurance through the NYS Academy of Trial Lawyers*, webinar presented to New York State Academy of Trial Lawyers, 2023
- Panelist, *Inside the Mind of the Mediator: Avoiding Impasse and Maximizing Outcomes in Mediation*, webinar presented as part of the Bridge the-Gap program to the New York City Bar Association, 2023

- Co-presenter, *Bypassing the Backlog: Fast-Tracking with Arbitration and Mediation,* webinar presented to New York State Academy of Trial Lawyers, 2022
- Panel Member, *Inside the Mind of the Mediator: Avoiding Impasse and Maximizing Outcomes in Mediation*, New York City Bar, Bridge-the Gap webinar, 2022
- Panelist, *Mastering Med Mal Mediations*, webinar presented to the New York State Academy of Trial Lawyers, 2021
- Contributing Author, *Construction Site Personal Injury Litigation*, Third Edition, Chapter 7: *Evolution of the Labor Law: A View From the Bench*, New York State Bar Association, 2021
- Panelist, *Business Divorce and the Use of ADR as a Path to Resolution* webinar 2021
- Panelist, *Inside the Mind of a Mediator - Avoiding Impasse and Maximizing Outcomes in Mediation*, webinar presented as part of the Bridge-the-Gap program to the New York City Bar, 2021
- Panel Member, *Arbitration and Mediation in the Workplace – Important Considerations for an ADR Program*, presented to Law.com, 2020
- Speaker, *Resolving Trust and Estate Issues Utilizing ADR*, presented to the New York State Academy of Trial Lawyers, 2020
- Panel Member, *Fast-Tracking Matrimonial and Family Law Disputes Using ADR*, presented to the New York State Academy of Trial Lawyers, 2020
- Author, *How Alternative Dispute Resolution and Technology Can Keep Your Cases Moving in the Face of Court Closures*, Law.com, 2020
- Panel Member, *Inside the Mind of a Mediator: Avoiding Impasse and Maximizing Outcomes in Mediations*, presented to the New York City Bar, 2020
- Co-Author, *The Benefits of Early Mediation: The Path Least Taken Requires Commitment*, (with Richard P. Byrne, Esq.), New York Law Journal ADR Special Report, 2019
- Speaker/Panel Member*, Know Before You Go: The Latest Developments and Best Practices in Alternative Dispute Resolution for Corporate Counsel*, ACC-NYC In-House Tool Kit, 2019
- Speaker/Panel Member, *Labor Law Round Up: Appellate Decisions and More*, Claims and Litigation Management Alliance (CLM) – Long Island Chapter, 2019

HONORS and AWARDS

- *The Herald,* 2023, Top Lawyer of Long Island Award
- *New York Law Journal* "Best Of" survey
  - Hall of Fame, 2026
  - Top Ten, Best Individual Mediator Category, 2016, 2018 - 2022, 2024 - 2026
  - Top Ten, Best Individual Arbitrator Category, 2017
- Criminal Courts Bar Association of Nassau County, Norman F. Lent Memorial Award
- Jewish Lawyers Association of Nassau County, Neil T. Shayne Distinguished Service Award
- Italian Heritage Club of Nassau County, Outstanding Jurist Award
- Fordham Law Alumni Association, Nassau-Suffolk Chapter, Distinguished Alumnus Award
- Fraternal Order of Court Officers of Nassau County, Bench and Bar Award
- Eastern Orthodox Lawyers Association, Judiciary Award
- Long Beach Lawyers Association, Judge of the Year Award
- “Legend” of Emory Swimming

JUDICIAL EXPERIENCE

- Associate Justice, Appellate Division, New York State Supreme Court, Second Judicial Department, 2004 - 2015
  - Member of the Constitutional Court
  - Appointed by Governor George Pataki, Additional Justice
  - Appointed by Governor Elliot Spitzer, Associate Justice
  - Reappointed by Governor Andrew Cuomo
- Justice of the New York Supreme Court, 10th Judicial District, 1999 - 2015
- Associate Justice, Appellate Term of the New York State Supreme Court, 9th & 10th Judicial Districts, 2003 - 2004
- Judge, New York State District Court, Nassau County, 1995 - 1998

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

- Of Counsel, Forchelli, Deegan, Terrana LLP, 2015 - Present
  - Formerly a Partner
- Partner, Liotti & Skelos, 1987 - 1994
- Associate, Law Offices of Hayt, Hayt, & Landau, LLC, 1986 - 1986
- Senior Deputy, Office of the Nassau County Attorney, 1981 - 1986
- Associate Attorney, Law Office of Frederick J. Magovern, 1980 - 1981

PROFESSIONAL LICENSES and ADMISSIONS

- New York State Bar
- New York State, Second Judicial Department
- United States Supreme Court
- United States District Court for the Southern District of New York
- United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS and ASSOCIATIONS

- Member, Bar Association of Nassau County
- Member, New York State Commission on Statewide Attorney Discipline
- Member, Criminal Courts Bar Association of Nassau County
- Member, Nassau County Women's Bar Association
- Chair, Judicial Hearing Officer Selection Advisory Committee, 2nd Judicial Dept. 10th Judicial District
- Member, Hellenic Lawyers Association of New York
- President, Nassau County District Court Judges Association
- Vice President, New York State District Court Judges Association
- Member, Bar Association of Suffolk County
- Member, Long Beach Lawyers Association

EDUCATION

- Fordham University School of Law, J.D.
- Emory University, B.A.