



## HON. PETER B. SKELOS

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

Honorable Peter B. Skelos' illustrious career includes 11 years spent as an Associate Justice of the Appellate Division of the New York State Supreme Court, Second Judicial Department where he served until his retirement in 2015. Judge Skelos' judicial career began in 1995 when he was elected to the District Court, Nassau County. Four years later, he was elected as Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, 10th Judicial District and in 2003 he was appointed Associate Justice of the Appellate Term of the Supreme Court 9th and 10th Judicial Districts. The following year, he was appointed by Governor George Pataki as an Additional Justice to one of the busiest appellate courts in the United States: the Appellate Division, Second Judicial Department. Thereafter, Governors Eliot Spitzer and Andrew Cuomo, respectively, appointed and reappointed Hon. Skelos as Associate Justice of the Appellate Division and also as a member of the Constitutional Court. He was rated "Highly Qualified" by the New York State Independent Judicial Election Qualification Commission.

Throughout his many years on the bench, he was known for having a keen legal intellect with compassion for those who appeared before him. Judge Skelos has a reputation for treating others in a fair and respectful manner and for arriving at well-reasoned and legally sound decisions in cases he has heard.

During his time as a trial and appellate division judge, Justice Skelos presided over scores of medical and dental malpractice cases. Prior to joining the bench, he was a Senior Deputy Nassau County Attorney where he successfully defended medical malpractice, civil rights, and personal injury matters. Thereafter, he was engaged in private practice where he handled a variety of cases including commercial civil litigation, civil rights, medical malpractice and personal injury in state and federal courts for both plaintiffs and defendants. Drawing from his experience, he has lectured to bar associations and the judiciary on medical malpractice and other personal injury matters, among other topics.

His experience on the bench, combined with the time spent in private practice, has given him a broad range of knowledge in numerous areas of the law including construction litigation, employment, matrimonial, professional liability and insurance coverage disputes. Honorable Skelos' ability to approach matters fairly and in an unbiased manner combined with his even temperament and incisive questioning make him extremely well-suited to the role of arbitrator/mediator and an excellent choice for both sides of the bar. Further, as a former appellate judge, he has the ability to fairly and expertly identify and resolve disputed questions of law.

In 2022, for the seventh year in a row, Judge Skelos was voted a Top Ten Neutral in the *New York Law Journal* "Best Of" Survey. He was also named a *National Law Journal* Alternative Dispute Resolution Champion, as part of a select group of only 46 nationwide. Further, he was selected as a 2017 and 2018 New York Super Lawyer by New York Super Lawyer Magazine. He has received numerous awards for his exemplary public service and as a career-long member of the Nassau County Bar Association, he was presented with the President's Award for his leadership on behalf of the Lawyers Assistance Program. He also served three terms as the administrative chair of the We Care Fund Advisory Board of the Bar Association of Nassau County where he continues to be an active member.

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

## AREAS of EXPERIENCE

- Civil Rights (State and Federal)
- Commercial
- Construction
- Employment
- Insurance Coverage
- Labor Law
- Matrimonial
- Medical Malpractice
- Negligence
- Product Liability
- Professional Liability

## REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

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

### 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, *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 presented to Campolo, Middleton & McCormick, 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, *Webinar: Arbitration and Mediation in the Workplace – Important Considerations for an ADR Program*, presented to Law.com, 2020
- Speaker, *Webinar: Resolving Trust and Estate Issues Utilizing ADR*, presented to the New York State Academy of Trial Lawyers, 2020
- Panel Member, *Webinar: 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
  - Top Ten, Best Individual Mediator Category, 2019-2022
- 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

- Forchelli, Deegan, Terrana LLP, 2015-Present
  - Of Counsel
  - 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, Southern District of New York
- United States District Court, Eastern District of New York
- Florida State Bar

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS and ASSOCIATIONS

- 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’s Court Judges Association
- Vice President, New York State District Court Judges Association
- Member, Bar Association of the County of Nassau
- Member, Florida Bar
- Member, Long Beach Lawyers Association

## EDUCATION

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