

# HON. ELIZABETH BONINA

Justice, Supreme Court of the State of New York, Kings County (Ret.)

The Honorable Elizabeth Bonina has been consistently voted a Top Mediator and Arbitrator since the inception of the *New York Law Journal* "Best Of" survey. She has been voted the #1 Arbitrator in New York State nine times, including in 2026, and in 2024 was voted both the #1 Mediator and #1 Arbitrator in the state.

During her time as a former Justice of the Supreme Court, Kings County, and as an arbitrator and mediator at NAM, Judge Bonina has facilitated the resolution of myriad cases, including business and commercial matters, employment, personal injury, automobile accidents, construction/labor law, nursing home, premises liability, slip and fall, social media discovery disputes, and sports and recreation cases. Judge Bonina has handled several construction contract cases, including a dispute she heard while serving on the bench which involved the construction of a new post office, and as a Hearing Officer for NAM, she has arbitrated and mediated real estate and construction matters, including a breach of contract matter involving a residential window installation. More significantly, it is her intelligence, determination, and patience that makes her an effective neutral and enables her to facilitate resolutions in even the most complex, highly emotional, and contentious cases.

In addition to the wide range of matters she regularly manages, Judge Bonina has significant experience and skill handling sexual abuse and sexual harassment matters. She has mediated cases involving claims of harassment, abuse (Child Victim's Act), rape, sexual molestation, and sex trafficking. She has also mediated cases with claims against individually named defendants, employers, educational and religious institutions. Parties involved in these matters frequently request that Judge Bonina mediate their cases because she is known for treating each matter and those involved with sensitivity, patience, and respect. She handles high-profile matters with the utmost discretion and confidentiality. Furthermore, Judge Bonina has presented CLE seminars on sexual harassment and sexual abuse matters and is at the forefront of current developments in the law, believing it to be crucial to her effectiveness as a neutral.

Representative matters over which she presided while serving as a Justice of the Supreme Court include a complex multi-party commercial case involving the removal of the director of the board without cause, and the dissolution of the company including shareholder rights; a major class action lawsuit involving a class of employees who alleged unlawful deductions from their wages and a landlord tenant case involving an alleged invasion of privacy due to newly installed surveillance cameras.

Judge Bonina’s past judicial and administrative experience includes serving as an Administrative Law Judge at the New York City Taxi & Limousine Commission (TLC). She was appointed the Chief Administrative Law Judge at TLC and served in that capacity for six of her ten years at that tribunal. She also served as a court examiner/referee pursuant to Article 81 of the Mental Hygiene Law in the Appellate Division, Second Department.

In 2026, Judge Bonina was voted the winner of the Best Individual Arbitrator category and a Top 10 Mediator in the New York Law Journal's "Best Of" survey, and she was inducted into the survey's Hall of Fame. Since 2004, Judge Bonina has been on the faculty of St. Joseph’s University in Brooklyn, New York, where she teaches undergraduate courses in Business Law, Sports Law, and Principles of Insurance. Previously, she was a partner in a law firm where she specialized in personal injury and medical malpractice matters.

Judge Bonina is available to arbitrate and mediate cases throughout New York State.

## AREAS of EXPERIENCE

- Business/Corporate/Partnership
- Commercial
- Construction
- Employment Law
- Insurance
- Medical Malpractice
- Negligence/Torts
- Personal Injury
  - Auto
  - Construction
  - Premises
  - Product Liability
- Professional Liability/Malpractice (Non-Medical)
- Sexual Abuse/Harassment
- Sports Law

## REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

- Mediated numerous matters involving §240(1) and §241(6) of the Labor Law with catastrophic injuries to workers, including a $11,000,000 settlement for an injured construction worker.
- Mediated and arbitrated numerous automobile and premises liability matters involving serious injuries and complex coverage issues.
- Mediated and arbitrated a wide variety of sports and recreation facility matters, including sports participant and spectator injuries at playgrounds, water parks, amusement parks, and the U.S. Tennis Open.
- Mediated and arbitrated matters involving insurance and re-insurance coverage issues, including fires at residential and commercial premises, as well as automobile, boating, and other watercraft insurance matters.
- Presided over a major class action suit involving a class of employees who alleged unlawful deduction from their wages.
- Presided over a complex multi-party commercial case involving the removal of a director without cause, and the dissolution of the company, including shareholder rights.
- Heard and decided a complex landlord-tenant matter involving an alleged invasion of privacy due to newly installed surveillance cameras.
- Heard and decided employment matters including employment discrimination, as well as Article 78 proceedings involving employment issues involving New York City schoolteachers and employees.
- As Chief Administrative Law Judge at the New York City Taxi & Limousine Commission Tribunal, supervised over 80 Administrative Law Judges in four tribunal locations, while at the same time serving as the Presiding Judge of the Appeals Division of the Taxi & Limousine Commission Tribunal.
- As Chief Administrative Law Judge, compiled and drafted a new bench book and manual for the Taxi & Limousine Commission Tribunal's Administrative Law Judges, hired and trained all Administrative Law Judges, and served as TLC's delegate to the Citywide Administrative Law Judge Training Committee.
- At the New York City Taxi & Limousine Commission, heard cases involving rule violations, including issues of driving infractions, taxicab maintenance, for-hire vehicle base operations, and other taxicab industry matters. Presided over fitness hearings concerning drug testing of taxicab and for-hire vehicle operators, summary suspension hearings following the arrests of licensees, re-application hearings for former licensees whose licenses had been previously revoked, for-hire vehicle base license revocation proceedings, and cases involving the failure of bases to pay for workers compensation insurance for their affiliated operators into the Black Car Fund.
- Presided over numerous high-profile cases involving the improper and discriminatory refusal of passengers by taxicab drivers, including the first of the "Operation Refusal" cases following a taxicab driver's failure to pick up actor Danny Glover as a passenger, as well as the repeated refusal of a blind Federal Judge.

- Served as an Administrative Law Judge at the New York City Environmental Control Board, hearing cases on quality of life and safety issues involving construction sites, sidewalks, residential and commercial premises, food safety, and protection of the New York City water supply.
- As a Court Examiner/Referee for the Appellate Division, Second Department, conducted hearings, and issued reports and recommendations in guardianship matters pursuant to Article 81 of the Mental Hygiene Law.

## LECTURES and PUBLICATIONS

- 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, 2025
- Co-Presenter, *Special Considerations in Mediating Sexual Abuse Cases*, presented to Child USA, 2024
- Co-Presenter, *Childs Victim Act Update*, Seminar/Series, presented to the New York State Institute of the Unified Court System, 2024
- Panelist, *New Developments in Child Victims Act Cases: 2024 Litigation and ADR Update*, webinar presented to the New York State Academy of Trial Lawyers, 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
- Panelist, *Special Considerations in Mediating Sexual Abuse Cases*, webinar presented through Celesq AttorneysEd Center, 2023
- Panelist, *Child Victims Act Updated: Alternative Dispute Resolution and Litigation Strategies*, webinar presented to the New York State Academy of Trial Lawyers, 2023
- Speaker, *Women in Law: Achieving Gender Equality*, webinar presented through Lawline, 2023
- Panelist*, Key Considerations for Mediating Sexual Abuse Cases*, presented to the New York City Bar Association, Sexual Abuse Litigation and Coverage Conference, 2023
- Panelist*, Nursing Home Know-hows for Successful Arbitration and Mediation*, webinar presented through the New York State Academy of Trial Lawyers, 2023
- Author, *Special Considerations in Mediating Sexual Abuse Cases,* New York Law Journal, 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
- Panelist, *Special Considerations in Mediating Sexual Abuse Cases*, webinar presented to New York State Academy of Trial Lawyers, 2022
- Speaker, *Women in Law: Achieving Gender Equality*, webinar presented to the American Bar Association, 2021
- Panelist, *Avoiding Ethical Pitfalls in ADR*, webinar presented to the American Bar Association, 2021
- Speaker, *Webinar: Get It Settled - Negotiation Strategies*, presented to the New York State Academy of Trial Lawyers, 2020
- Author, *Alternative Dispute Resolution in the Age of Covid-19*, New York Law Journal, 2020
- Speaker, *Best Practices in Arbitration & Mediation – Introduction to Alternative Dispute Resolution,* presented to the New York State Academy of Trial Lawyers, 2019
- Speaker, *Technology in the Alternative Dispute Resolution Arena*, Ringler Radio Podcast, 2019
- Panelist, *In Mediation, Your Gotta Have (Good) Faith*, ACC-NYC Ethics Marathon, 2019

## HONORS and AWARDS

- *New York Law Journal* "Best Of" survey
  - Hall of Fame, 2026
  - Top 10 - Best Individual Arbitrator Category, 2010 - 2012, 2016 - 2019, 2021
  - 9-time winner - Best Individual Arbitrator, 2013 - 2015, 2020, 2022 - 2026
- *New York Law Journal* "Best Of" survey
  - Top 10 - Best Individual Mediator Category, 2013 - 2019, 2021 - 2023, 2025 - 2026
  - Winner, Best Individual Mediator Category, 2020, 2024

## JUDICIAL EXPERIENCE

- Administrative Law Judge, NYC Environmental Control Board, 2007 - Present
- Chief Administrative Law Judge, NYC Taxi and Limousine Commission, 2001 - 2002 and 2003 - 2007
- Justice of the Supreme Court, June 2002 - December 2002
- Administrative Law Judge, NYC Taxi and Limousine Commission, 1998 - 2001
- Court Examiner/Referee, Appellate Division, Second Dept., 1995 - 2002

## LEGAL EXPERIENCE

- Adjunct Professor, St. Joseph's College, Brooklyn, NY, Business Law, Sports Law, Sports and Recreation Law and Principles of Insurance, 2004 - Present
- Partner and Managing Attorney at Bonina & Bonina, P.C., 1991 - 1995

## PROFESSIONAL LICENSES and ADMISSIONS

- New York State Bar

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS and ASSOCIATIONS

- Member, New York State Academy of Trial Lawyers
- Member, Brooklyn Bar Association, Co-Chair ADR Committee
- Member, Brooklyn Women's Bar Association
- Member, Bay Ridge Lawyers Association
- Member, Catholic Lawyers Guild

## EDUCATION

- Brooklyn Law School, J.D.
- Villanova University, B.S.