



HON. JOHN P. DIBLASI

Justice, Supreme Court of the State of New York, Commercial Division, Westchester County (Ret.)

The Honorable John P. DiBlasi's illustrious career includes 10 years spent as Justice of the Supreme Court, Commercial Division where he resolved hundreds of matters. As the presiding justice of the commercial part in the court in which he sat, he developed the rules for discovery practice and for the trial of commercial matters akin to those used in the federal courts. While on the bench he presided over complex commercial litigation involving contracts, employment, real property/land use and environmental litigation matters and developed extensive experience in the trial and settlement of complex commercial matters. Judge DiBlasi created the Commercial Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Program, which was successfully implemented by the Court.

In 2023, for the tenth year in a row, Judge DiBlasi was named one of the Top Three Mediators in the United States by *The National Law Journal* "Best Of" survey. He was also voted the #1 Mediator in the United States by the *Corporate Counsel* "Best Of" survey and he was named a National Law Journal Alternative Dispute Resolution Champion, as part of a select group of only 46 nationwide. Furthermore, in 2022, he was ranked a Top Ten Mediator in the *New York Law Journal* "Best Of" survey for the thirteenth consecutive year. Judge DiBlasi has consistently been designated a Super Lawyer and holds an AV Preeminent Peer Rating from Martindale-Hubbell in both Alternative Dispute Resolution and Litigation – a distinction given only to those who possess the highest ethical standards and professional ability.

As a full-time neutral with NAM (National Arbitration and Mediation), his ADR practice encompasses a wide and varied range of cases, inclusive of commercial, class action, construction, corporate dissolution, debtor/creditor, employment, environmental, insurance, investor fraud, international law, land use, professional liability, as well as catastrophic personal injury actions, among others. Judge DiBlasi is based in New York, hears cases throughout the country, and has handled significant high stakes matters in multiple locations, including Boston, Chicago, Hartford, Las Vegas and Miami.

As a mediator, Judge DiBlasi has developed a reputation for settling the most complex matters and is persistent in following up with parties after mediation to assist in finalizing a successful resolution. As a commercial arbitrator, he has the skills necessary to digest and analyze expert testimony, complex contracts, and documents, as well as the ability to render prompt and reasoned decisions. Judge DiBlasi's experience and deep knowledge of a variety of practice areas enables him to take on almost any subject matter that is brought before him. He is known to be well prepared and adept at comprehending even the most complex issues.

He has mediated and/or arbitrated numerous cases involving commercial matters, complex insurance coverage issues among multiple defendants; complex land use actions inclusive of large commercial developments; municipal projects, and allegations of noncompliance with SEQRA; and employment law matters involving sexual harassment, wrongful termination, claims under the Employee Retirement Income Securities Act, retaliation cases involving in-house "open door" policies, tortious interference with employment contracts and prospective business relations; toxic tort and other complex catastrophic personal injury actions.

Judge DiBlasi is an active speaker and has devoted his time to presenting workshops on a wide range of commercial topics at many of the top law firms throughout the United States. He is also a longtime supporter of the K9 Rescue Mission, a non-profit organization dedicated to the service of retiring and retired Military Working Dogs and Contract Working Dogs. He also serves on the advisory board of the SPCA (Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) of Westchester County, NY.

From 1990-1998, Judge DiBlasi served proudly as an officer in the U.S. Army Reserve in the Judge Advocate General's Corp (JAG) where he performed legal services during three tours of duty in the Republic of Panama, West Point, NY and Fort Dix, NJ. He was honorably discharged with the rank of Captain.

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

AREAS of EXPERIENCE

- Business/Commercial
- Commercial Leases
- Construction
- Cryptocurrency
- Employment
- Entertainment
- Environmental
- Forgery
- Government/Public Agencies
- Insurance/Reinsurance
- International Law
- Labor Law
- Land Use
- Maritime/Jones Act
- Medical Malpractice
- Negligence
- Non-Compete Agreements
- Partnership Dissolution
- Ponzi Scheme Fraud
- POS Software
- Premises Liability
- Product Liability
- Professional Liability
- Slander of Title and Related Issues
- Toxic Torts
- Wage & Hours

LECTURES and PUBLICATIONS

- Speaker, *Drafting the Arbitration Clause to Avoid Litigation - Preventing Challenges in Court or an Arbitral Setting*, presented to Holland & Knight, 2023
- Co-Presenter, *Best Practices in Drafting Arbitration Clauses*, webinar presented to Fidelity National Financial, 2023
- Co-Presenter, *Best Practices in Drafting Arbitration Clauses*, webinar presented by the NAM Academy, 2023
- Panel Member, *Mediation and Negotiations in a Virtual World: The Ethics, Technology and Best Practices*, NAM Academy webinar, 2022
- 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, *Arbitration: The Importance of the Pre-Hearing Conference*, Lawline webinar, 2022
- Panel Member, *Best Practices in Drafting Arbitration Clauses*, webinar presented to Katten, Muchin, Rosenman LLP, 2022
- A Conversation with NAM Hearing Officer Judge DiBlasi: *Maximizing the Benefits of Arbitration in the Aftermath of Mass Filings*, American Bar Association Resolutions Podcast, 2021
- Speaker, *The Importance of Security and Integrity Issues Within the Virtual ADR Process*, webinar presented to the National Academy of Continuing Legal Education (NACLE), 2021
- Panelist, *Settling Cases During and After the Pandemic – Four Perspectives*, webinar presented to Pillinger Miller Tarallo, 2021
- Co-Presenter, *Drafting the Arbitration Provision in Commercial Contracts*, webinar presented to the American Bar Association (ABA), 2021
- Speaker, *The Importance of Security and Integrity Issues Within the Virtual ADR Process*, webinar presented to the American Bar Association (ABA), 2021
- Co-Presenter, *Introduction to NAM on the Use of ADR to Resolve Financial and Commercial Credit Matters*, webinar presented to McGlinchey LLP, 2021

- Speaker, *New York County Lawyers Association, ADR Committee Meeting* featuring Hon. John P. DiBlasi (Ret.) and Richard P. Byrne, Esq., 2020
- Speaker, Webinar: *Inside the Mind of the Mediator: Avoiding Impasse and Maximizing Outcomes in Mediation*, presented to L'Abbate, Balkan, Colavita & Contini LLP, 2020
- Author, *The Joint Session - Benefits to Consider*, Law.com, 2020
- Interviewed for Daily Report article, *Mediators Talk 'East v. West' Split Over Use of Opening Sessions to Lay Out Disputes*, 2020
- Interviewed for article, *Mediators Talk 'East v. West' Split Over Use of Opening Sessions to Lay Out Disputes*, Daily Report, 2020
- Speaker, *Virtual ADR – Virtual Alternative Dispute Resolution: Technology, Cybersecurity and Practical Considerations*, presented to Clear Law Institute, 2020
- Author, *Time is on Your Side in the Mediation Process*, Law.com, 2020
- Speaker, Webinar: *The Importance of Security and Integrity Issues Within the Virtual ADR Process*, Law.com, 2020
- Speaker, Webinar: *Virtual ADR – The Technology, Cybersecurity and Issues Unique to the Process*, presented to the New York State Academy of Trial Lawyers, 2020
- Speaker, Webinar: *Effectively Managing the Negotiation Process*, presented to Markel Insurance Company, 2020
- Panel Member, *Conference and Settlement and Mediation in Commercial and Personal Injury Cases*, presented to the Association of Civil Practice Institute, 2020
- Speaker, *How to Conduct Virtual Arbitrations and Mediations*, Lawline Seminar, 2020
- Speaker, Webinar: *An Introduction to the Use of Video Conferencing for Arbitration and Mediation and Its Benefits*, NAM (National Arbitration and Mediation), 2020
- Author, *Embracing Technology in the Face of the Coronavirus: Virtual Reality in Arbitrations and Mediations*, 2020
- CCBJ interview: *As Alternative Dispute Resolution Grows in Popularity, Experience is a Key Differentiator*, Corporate Counsel Business Journal (CCBJ), 2020
- Speaker, *Secrets of a Successful Negotiation*, presented to Moses & Singer, 2020
- Speaker, *Crafting Arbitration Clauses: How Specificity Reduces Dispute Time and Costs*, presented to Pryor Cashman, LLP, 2019
- Speaker, *Ethics in Mediation*, Lawline webinar, 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
- Author, *Before the Real Negotiations Begin: Use Good Faith Disclosure and Proactivity to Prevent Mediation Sabotage*, New York Law Journal Alternative Dispute Resolution Special Report, 2019
- Speaker/Panel Member, *In Mediation, You Gotta Have (Good) Faith*, ACC-NYC Ethics Marathon, 2019
- Speaker, *Settlement and Mediation in Commercial and Personal Injury Cases*, presented to New York County Lawyers, 2019
- Speaker/Panel Member, *In Mediation, You Gotta Have (Good) Faith!*, 21st Annual American Bar Association Dispute Resolution Spring Conference, 2019
- Speaker/Panel Member, *You Gotta Have (Good) Faith!*, Association of Corporate Counsel, ACC-NYC Ethics Marathon, 2019
- Speaker/Panel Member, *Inside the Mind of a Mediator: Avoiding Impasse and Maximizing Outcomes in Mediation*, presented to Pryor Cashman LLP, 2019
- Speaker, *What We've Got Here is a Failure to Communicate! Is Mediation the Solution?*, presented to the New York Claim Association (NYCA), 2019
- Speaker, *Secrets of Successful Negotiation*, presented to the Association of Corporate Counsel (ACC) Annual Meeting, Austin, Texas, 2018

- Speaker/Panel Member, *The Art of mediation: Best Practices and Tips from the Bench and Bar*, presented to Pryor Cashman, 2018
- Author, *Good Faith Negotiations at Mediation*, New York Law Journal Alternative Dispute Resolution Special Report, 2018
- Speaker/Panel Member, *Crafting Arbitration Clauses: How Specificity Reduces Dispute Time & Costs*, ALM Webcast, 2018
- Speaker/Panel Member, *Digital Currency: Internet Marvel or Vehicle For Cyber Criminals?*, presented to LeClair Ryan, LLP, 2018
- Lecturer, *41st Annual Civil Trial Practice Institute*, New York County Lawyers Association (NYCLA), 2018
- Speaker/Panel Member, *CLE with a View: Arbitration of Commercial Disputes – Hot Topics and Tips from the Judges*, Signature Continuing Legal Education Program presented in conjunction with Association of Corporate Counsel – New York City Chapter, 2018
- Speaker/Panel Member, *Arbitration of Commercial Disputes: Hot Topics and Tips*, presented to Blank Rome, LLP, 2018
- Author, *Navigating the Mediation Experience: No Compromise – No Resolution*, New York Law Journal Alternative Dispute Resolution Special Report, 2018

HONORS and AWARDS

- *National Law Journal* "Best Of" survey
 - Top Three Mediator in the United States, 2018-2023
 - 4-time winner - #1 Mediator in the United States, 2014-2017
- *New York Law Journal* "Best Of" survey
 - Top Ten – Best Individual Mediator Category, 2010-2022
 - Top Ten - Best Individual Arbitrator Category, 2013
 - Winner - Best International Mediator Category, 2012
 - Top Five - Best Financial Markets Mediator Category, 2012
- *Corporate Counsel* "Best of" survey
 - Winner - #1 Mediator by In-House Corporate Counsel, 2018
- *National Law Journal*, Alternative Dispute Resolution Champion, 2016-2018
- AV Rating, Martindale-Hubbell Peer Review Ratings System
- Lifetime Achievement in the Law Award, Institute for Jewish Humanities 2014
- Pace University School of Law Adjunct Professor of the Year Award
- Pace University School of Law Award for Service to the Legal Community
- NY State Bar Association, Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service in the Field of Law Related Education

JUDICIAL EXPERIENCE

- Justice of the New York Supreme Court (Ret.)
- Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, Westchester Co., 1995-2004
- Judge of the City Court of Mount Vernon, 1990-1994

FORMAL ADR TRAINING

- CPR Institute Mediation Training, 2-day course, 14.5 Skills and 1.0 Ethics CLE Credits
- Completed Mediation Intensive Training, New York
- Center for Mediation in Law, Accredited Provider of CLE in the State of New York, 40 Hours, 36 CLE Credits

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

- Arbitrator and Mediator, NAM (National Arbitration and Mediation), 2005-2006 and 2009-present
- Deputy Commissioner, Westchester County Department of Emergency Services, 2007-2008
 - Responsible for the administration and oversight of the agency's operations
- Chief of Staff, City of Mount Vernon, New York, 2006-2007
 - Responsible for the oversight and operation of approximately twenty city agencies and departments and more than 800 employees for the Mayor of the City
- Counsel, Clark Gagliardi & Miller, 2004-2005
- Officer, U.S. Army Reserve, Judge Advocate General's Corps, 1990-1998
 - Performed legal services overseas during three tours of duty in the Republic of Panama, in addition to West Point, New York, Fort Totten, New York, and Fort Dix, New Jersey
 - Honorably discharged with the rank of Captain
- Member, Westchester County Public Employment Relations Board, 1988-1990
 - Mediated labor disputes and supervised the election of collective bargaining representatives
 - Supervised the election process of collective bargaining representatives for civil service employees
- Partner, Pizzitola & DiBlasi, P.C., 1982-1990
 - Outside Counsel in Civil Litigation
- Examining Attorney, NYC Department of Investigation, 1980-1982
 - Handled matters involving white collar crime and official corruption

EDUCATION

- St. John's University School of Law, J.D.
- Syracuse University, B.A.
- Judge Advocate Officer's Basic Course
- Certificate in Human Resource Management, Villanova University