



**HON. BARBARA ODWAK**

*Master Arbitrator, Kings County (Ret.)*

Hon. Barbara Odwak has been working in the field of ADR since the mid-1980's and has mediated and arbitrated thousands of cases in the areas of personal injury, labor law, product liability, real estate and commercial matters. Many of these cases have been complex matters, mostly personal injury, with many related to labor law or products liability. She is often selected as a mediator or arbitrator for difficult matters involving injuries of a serious and highly personal nature requiring the utmost sensitivity and understanding.

Prior to joining NAM, she was a Master Arbitrator for the New York State Insurance Department handling no-fault appeals, and an arbitrator in Civil Court. Judge Odwak has extensive ADR training and experience, and has obtained her Certificate of Conflict and Dispute Resolution from New York University in 2003. She currently serves as an arbitrator/mediator for the District Court, Eastern District of New York.

In addition to working with NAM, Judge Odwak is a court-appointed evaluator, receiver, referee, trustee, guardian, attorney for the alleged incompetent and Guardian Ad Litem for a variety of matters. She is currently engaged in private practice and handles a wide variety of case types including Insurance Law, Personal Injury, Real Estate, Wills & Estates Law, Commercial and Elder Law. Judge Odwak is well versed in the law and her ability to approach matters fairly and in an unbiased manner, combined with her training as a mediator and arbitrator, make her extremely well suited to the role of Master Arbitrator with NAM.

**AREAS OF EXPERIENCE**

- Automobile Accidents
- Business/Commercial
- Elder Law
- Estates and Probate
- Insurance/Re-Insurance Coverage
- Labor Law
- Negligence
- No Fault
- Personal Injury
- Premises Liability
- Real Estate

**ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION EXPERIENCE**

- Certificate of Conflict and Dispute Resolution, New York University, 2003
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District Arbitration and Mediation Panel
- Arbitrator, Civil Court, Small Claims Part
- Master Arbitrator, New York Insurance Department, No-Fault Division
- Arbitrator and Mediator, American Arbitration Association
- Arbitrator and Mediator, National Arbitration and Mediation, 1997-Present

**HONORS and AWARDS**

- "AV" Preeminent Rated in Martindale Hubbell for over 15 years
- Recognized in Nexis/Lexis Women Law Leaders - New York Magazine, March 2012

**JUDICIAL EXPERIENCE**

- Administrative Law Judge, Environmental Protection Agency
- Administrative Law Judge, New York City Taxi & Limousine Commission
- Administrative Law Judge, Parking Violations Bureau

**LEGAL EXPERIENCE**

- Private Practice, Law Offices of Barbara S. Odwak, 1999-Present
- Partner, Gursky & Odwak, 1984-1999
- Associate, Glabman Rubenstein & Reingold, 1982-1984
- Associate, Ganz Hollinger & Towe, 1980-1982

**PROFESSIONAL LICENSES and ADMISSIONS**

- Admitted to practice in the State of New York, 1981
- U.S. District Court, Eastern and Southern Districts of New York, 1981
- Tax Court, 1981
- U.S. Supreme Court, 1984

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS and ASSOCIATIONS**

- Chair, Mediation Grievance Committee, Brooklyn Bar Association
- Member and Former Chair, Fee Dispute Committee, Brooklyn Bar Association
- Former Member, Grievance Committee, Brooklyn Bar Association
- Trustee and Director, Brooklyn Bar Association
- Former President, Brooklyn Women's Bar Association
- Former Vice President, Women's Bar Association of the State of New York
- Chair, Brooklyn Bar Association's Arbitration Fee Committee and Mediation Committee
- Member, Brooklyn Bar Association's Grievance Committee
- Former Chair, Tort Committee for the Women's Bar Association for the State of New York
- Member, New York State Bar Association's Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee
- Member, Brooklyn Bar Association

**EDUCATION**

- Baruch College, City University of New York, M.B.A., 1983
- Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, J.D., 1980
- Baruch College, City University of New York, B.S., cum laude (in italics), 1977