



JAMES W. BORKOWSKI, ESQ.

Hearing Officer, Westchester County

A trial attorney for over 33 years, Jim Borkowski is known as a personable straight shooter, with a high success rate resolving construction cases, premises liability cases, general liability, and automobile claims.

With extensive experience representing both plaintiffs and defendants, Jim has the perspective to fairly analyze lawsuits from both sides and appreciates the concerns and goals of all involved. It is the highest form of compliment that many of Jim’s adversaries, both plaintiffs and defendants, now use him as a Neutral at NAM.

- “Thank you for a great settlement day. We settled nine out of nine cases. You are the best of the best.” *Plaintiff Attorney*
- “It was a pleasure working with you. My client and I appreciated your hard work to get this case resolved.” *Plaintiff Attorney*
- “Great to work with you on this case. On to the next one.” *Defense Attorney*
- “You are the best to work with.” *Insurance Company, Senior Claims Representative*



For the second year in a row, Jim was recognized by his peers as a Top Ten Neutral in New York State in the 2021 New York Law Journal Best Of Survey. He earned an “AV Distinguished” rating from Martindale-Hubbell, a distinction given only to those who possess the “highest level of professional excellence in legal ability and legal ethics”.

As a practitioner, Jim represented insurance carriers, corporations, and individuals in personal injury, construction, labor law, premises liability, property damage, and automobile claims. He tried over 100 jury trials in the Metro New York area. Recognizing the risk mitigation and cost savings for clients, Jim spent many years of his career negotiating settlements through private mediation.

Prior to joining NAM, Jim served as a Town Justice in the Town of Southeast, one of the busiest Justice Courts in New York State. In that role, for 11 years (1998 – 2009), he presided over jury and non-jury trials and facilitated the settlement of hundreds of civil and commercial cases.

Jim began his career in 1987 as an Assistant District Attorney in the Nassau County District Attorney’s Office, where he litigated trials, pre-trial hearings, and presented cases before grand juries. Subsequently, in the early nineties, he was an associate for a prominent New York City law firm, where he was a member of a special litigation team investigating liability theories for the Lockerbie Air Disaster (Flight 103). He also served as an attorney for the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) for personal injury actions, and litigated commercial, insurance, and foreclosure matters for the firm.

Jim is available to arbitrate and mediate cases throughout the New York Metro area.

AREAS of EXPERIENCE

- Automobile
- Commercial
- Construction
- General Liability
- Labor Law
- Litigation
- Municipal Law
- Personal Injury
- Premises Liability
- Property Damage

LECTURES and PUBLICATIONS

- Co-presenter, *Putting Your Best Proof Forward: Arbitration and Mediation Submissions*, 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
- Author, *Elevating Your ADR Game – Useful Insights and Perspectives*, NYLJ column, focusing on the book, “Never Split the Difference: Negotiating as if Your Life Depended on It” by Chris Voss, New York Law Journal, 2021
- Panel Member, *Navigating the Best Practices of Mediation in the Remote World*, DRI 2021 Annual Meeting
- Panelist, Webinar: *Inside the Mind of a Mediator - Avoiding Impasse and Maximizing Outcomes in Mediation*, presented as part of the Bridge-the-Gap program to the New York City Bar, 2021
- Panel Member, Webinar: *Resolving Coverage Disputes in Mediation*, presented to the New York State Academy of Trial Lawyers, 2020
- Speaker, Webinar: *Tips and Techniques for Ensuring Impactful and Successful Virtual Mediations*, presented to United Educators, 2020
- Speaker, Webinar: *The Benefits of Early Mediation: The Path Least Taken Requires Commitment*, Law.com, 2020
- Author, *Video Mediations: The Future of Alternative Dispute Resolution*, New York Law Journal, 2020
- Panel Member, *Inside the Mind of a Mediator: Avoiding Impasse and Maximizing Outcomes in Mediations*, presented to the New York City Bar, 2020
- Certified Criminal Justice Instructor, Westchester County Police Academy

HONORS and AWARDS

- New York Law Journal Best of Survey, 2021, Top Ten – Best Individual Arbitrator Category
- New York Law Journal Best Of Survey 2020, Top Ten - Best Individual Arbitrator Category
- “AV-Distinguished” rating, Martindale- Hubbell

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

- Of Counsel, Keane & Beane, P.C., 2003 – Present
- Town Justice, Town of Southeast, 1998 – 2009
- Of Counsel, Bleakley Platt & Schmidt, (Litigation Department), 1998 – 2003
- Partner, Stephens Hogan Rossi & Borkowski, 1994 – 1998
- Associate, Windels, Marx, Davies & Ives (Litigation Department), 1989 – 1994
- Assistant District Attorney, Nassau County, 1987 - 1989

PROFESSIONAL LICENSES and ADMISSIONS

- New York State Bar, 1988
- United States Court of Appeals, Second Circuit, 1991
- United States Supreme Court, 1995
- United States District Court, Northern, Southern and Eastern Districts of New York

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS and ASSOCIATIONS

- Member, New York State Bar Association
- Member, New York State Magistrates Association
- Past President, Putnam County Magistrates Association
- Participant, The Hudson River Swim for Life across the Hudson River

EDUCATION

- Boston University School of Law, J.D., 1987
 - Associate Editor, Commentaries legal book review journal
- State University of New York at Albany, B.A., *magna cum laude*, 1984
 - Phi Alpha Theta, History Honor Society