



HON. PETER J. O'DONOGHUE

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

The Honorable Peter J. O'Donoghue's remarkable judicial career includes 27 years spent as a Justice of the Supreme Court in Queens County, 15 of which were in the Medical Malpractice Part. From 2008 until his retirement, all medical and dental malpractice filings in the Queens County courthouse were exclusively assigned to him. Judge O'Donoghue conferenced, negotiated, mediated, and settled more than 300 medical malpractice matters each year while on the bench. Additionally, during the pandemic and post-pandemic period, he successfully mediated more than 150 nursing home cases, most of which were resolved.

Judge O'Donoghue's legal career began as a law intern to staff attorneys at the Queens Legal Aid Society. Shortly thereafter, he became a law assistant for the Criminal Court, Bronx County. In 1982, he served as the Principal Law Clerk to the Honorable John J. Clabby of the Queens County Supreme Court, Criminal Term, a position that he held for thirteen years. While he was a Law Clerk during the day, he also served as a Small Claims Court arbitrator at night, arbitrating more than 200 cases over a 3-year period. In 1996, he was elected to the bench as a New York City Civil Court Judge. Thereafter, in 2001, Judge O'Donoghue served as the Acting Supreme Court Justice and was elected in 2002 to the Supreme Court, Civil Part, Eleventh Judicial District, where he served in the IAS (Individual Assignment System), presiding over personal injury, labor law, general liability, and guardianship matters, until he was assigned to the Medical Malpractice Part.

Judge O'Donoghue is known for the time he gives listening to the sides of both plaintiffs and defense and understanding the varied nuances of each case showing compassion while fairly evaluating the matter to resolution. He works hard to resolve these matters as expeditiously as possible, and is considered to be brilliant, fair and flexible.

Judge O'Donoghue has a reputation as a tough but fair jurist who is adept at settling cases. Practicing attorneys that have appeared before him have commented:

- "Judge O'Donoghue has an excellent judicial demeanor. He's even-tempered and reasonable."
- "He tries really hard to fully understand his cases and works hard to resolve them whenever possible."
- "He makes attorneys feel comfortable when they're appearing before him."
- "It's a pleasure to appear in his courtroom. It's a relaxed place and he's very flexible."

Judge O'Donoghue served as Co-Chairman of the Queens Task Force for the Disabled, President and Past Treasurer of the Flushing Lawyers Club, President and Past Secretary of the St. Patrick's Society, Parish Councilman, Chairman of the Finance Committee and Majority Leader of Sacred Heart Parish, and a Board Member of the Queens Independent Living Center. He also served as a Board Member of the American Red Cross and was a Chairman and Grievance Committee Member of the American Principle's Committee of the Queens County Bar Association.

Judge O'Donoghue is available to arbitrate and mediate cases throughout the New York City Metro area.

AREAS of EXPERIENCE

- Dental and Medical Malpractice
- Nursing Home Disputes
- Guardianship
- Personal Injury/General Liability

HONORS and AWARDS

- Man of the Year Award, St. Patrick's Society

JUDICIAL EXPERIENCE

- Justice, Supreme Court of the State of New York, Queens County, Eleventh District
 - Elected, 2002-2016, re-elected, 2016-2023
- Judge, Civil Court of the City of New York, 1996-2001
- Principal Law Clerk to Justice John J. Clabby, 1982-1995

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

- Law Assistant, Criminal Court, Bronx County, 1979-1982
- Law Intern to Staff Attorneys, Queens Legal Aid Society, 1978-1979

PROFESSIONAL LICENSES and ADMISSIONS

- New York State Bar

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS and ASSOCIATIONS

- New York State Bar Association
- Co-Chairman, Queens Task Force for the Disabled
- President, and Past Treasurer, Flushing Lawyers Club
- President and Past Secretary, St. Patrick's Society
- Councilman, Finance Committee Chairman, Majority Leader, Sacred Heart Parish
- Board Member, Queens Independent Living Center
- Board Member, American Red Cross
- American Principle's Committee, Chairman, Grievance Committee, Queens County Bar Association
- New York City Civil Court Small Claims Arbitrator, Pro Bono

EDUCATION

- St. John's University Law School, J.D.
- St. John's University, B.B.S.