



HON. ELIZABETH BONINA (Ret.)

Justice of the Supreme Court, Kings

As a former Justice of the Supreme Court, Kings County, the Honorable Elizabeth Bonina facilitates the settlement of cases involving a range of areas of practice including personal injury, premises liability, labor law, sports and recreation, and employment law cases. More significantly, it is Judge Bonina’s skill as a mediator and arbitrator that makes her an effective neutral as she is known for her intelligence, determination, patience, and ability to get even the most complex, highly emotional and contentious cases resolved.

In 2018, for the sixth year in a row, the Honorable Elizabeth Bonina was voted a Best Individual Arbitrator in New York State in the New York Law Journal Annual Reader Rankings Survey with three of those years being voted #1 (2015, 2014, 2013). Judge Bonina has also been ranked one of the Top Ten Mediators in the state for nine consecutive years in that same survey.

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 law suit 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 a court examiner/ referee pursuant to Article 81 of the Mental Hygiene Law in the Appellate Division, Second Department where she conducted hearings, received testimony and issued recommendations to the Supreme Court Justices presiding over IAS Part 76. In 1998, she was appointed to the New York City Taxi & Limousine Commission as an Administrative Law Judge. During her tenure as an Administrative Law Judge, Judge Bonina went from conducting hearings and rendering decisions, to the Appeals Division where she conducted appellate review of ALJ decisions, to Assistant Chief Administrative Law Judge in charge of supervising all Judges at the various agency tribunals, to Chief Administrative Law Judge. She served at the Taxi & Limousine Commission for over four years until she was appointed by Governor George Pataki as a Justice of the Supreme Court in the Second Judicial District.

Since joining our panel, Judge Bonina has both mediated and arbitrated a wide variety of cases including labor law, employment, and personal injury cases with complex coverage issues.

AREAS of EXPERIENCE

- Automobile Accidents
- Business/Commercial
- Employment
- Insurance/Re-Insurance Coverage
- Labor Law
- Medical Malpractice
- Negligence
- Personal Injury
- Premises Liability
- Professional Liability
- Sports and Recreation



REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

- Mediated numerous matters involving §240(1) and §241(6) of the Labor Law with catastrophic injuries to workers, including a recent \$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

- Speaker/Panel Member, *Achieving Equality for Women in the Courtroom and in ADR: If Not Now, When?*, Webinar presented in cooperation with Law.com, 2018
- Adjunct Professor, St. Joseph's College, Brooklyn, NY – teach undergraduate courses in Business Law I, Business Law II and Sports Law, 2004 - Present
- Author, *Title IX Complaints – Resolving Them With ADR*, *New York Law Journal*, 2016
- Speaker/Panel Member, *Mediation – Behind the Scenes*, sponsored by the American Bar Association's LPL Young Professionals Committee, 2016

- Speaker/Panel Member, *The Future of Alternative Dispute Resolution*, sponsored by Brooklyn Law School's Alternative Dispute Resolution Society, 2015
- Speaker/Panel Member, *Introduction to Alternative Dispute Resolution*, sponsored by Brooklyn Law School's Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee, 2015
- Author, *Clearer Player Disciplinary Process Can Help Restore NFL's Luster*, *New York Law Journal*, 2014
- Presented numerous Continuing Legal Education (CLE) seminars at the Bay Ridge Lawyers Association, including *Contemporary Issues in Sports Law, Settlement & ADR Tactics, Navigating New York City's Administrative Courts* and *Ethics in Trial Practice*
- Author, *Why Mediation of the NCAA Labor Dispute Makes Sense*, *New York Law Journal*, 2014
- Speaker/Panel Member, *Negotiating Tips and Techniques*, sponsored by the Brooklyn Bar Association, 2013
- Speaker/Panel Member, *So You Want To Be A Trial Lawyer*, sponsored by the New York County Lawyers Association, 2012
- Speaker/Panel Member, *Alternative Dispute Resolution in Personal Injury Cases*, sponsored by the Brooklyn Bar Association, 2011
- Participated as part of a panel at three annual CLE lectures on Article 81 of the Mental Hygiene Law at the Brooklyn Bar Association
- Taught multiple training courses for new Administrative Law Judges at the New York City Taxi & Limousine Commission
- Lectured on the topic of *No Fault for Paralegals* at the New York State Trial Lawyers Institute
- Researched and drafted new bench book and manual for Administrative Law Judges at the New York City Taxi & Limousine Commission Tribunal
- Served as a Dean of the New York State Trial Lawyers Institute from 1992 to 1999

HONORS and AWARDS

- New York Law Journal Reader Rankings Survey 2018, Top Three - Best Individual Arbitrator Category
- New York Law Journal Reader Rankings Survey 2018, Top Ten - Best Individual Mediator Category
- New York Law Journal Reader Rankings Survey 2017, Top Two - Best Individual Arbitrator Category
- New York Law Journal Reader Rankings Survey 2017, Top Ten - Best Individual Mediator Category
- New York Law Journal Reader Rankings Survey 2016, Top Two - Best Individual Arbitrator Category
- New York Law Journal Reader Rankings Survey 2016, Top Three - Best Individual Mediator Category
- New York Law Journal Reader Rankings Survey 2015, Winner - Best Individual Arbitrator Category
- New York Law Journal Reader Rankings Survey 2015, Top Ten - Best Individual Mediator Category
- New York Law Journal Reader Rankings Survey 2014, Winner - Best Individual Arbitrator Category
- New York Law Journal Reader Rankings Survey 2014, Top Ten - Best Individual Mediator Category
- New York Law Journal Reader Rankings Survey 2013, Winner - Best Individual Arbitrator Category
- New York Law Journal Reader Rankings Survey 2013, Top Ten - Best Individual Mediator Category
- New York Law Journal Reader Rankings Survey 2012, Top Ten - Best Individual Mediator Category
- New York Law Journal Reader Rankings Survey 2011, Top Ten - Best Individual Mediator Category
- New York Law Journal Reader Rankings Survey 2010, Top Ten - Best Individual Mediator Category

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

- Partner and Managing Attorney at Bonina & Bonina, P.C. from 1991 to 1999, specializing in trials and appeals of personal injury matters including: automobile, premises, labor law, products, liability and medical malpractice.

PROFESSIONAL LICENSES and ADMISSIONS

- New York State Bar

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS and ASSOCIATIONS

- New York State Academy of Trial Lawyers
- Brooklyn Bar Association
- Brooklyn Women's Bar Association
- Catholic Lawyers Guild
- Bay Ridge Lawyers Association
- Association of Small Claims Arbitrators
- Former Board Member, New York State Trial Lawyers Association
- Former Dean, New York State Trial Lawyers Institute

EDUCATION

- Brooklyn Law School, J.D., 1991
- Villanova University, B.S., 1983