



HON. JOHN P. DiBLASI (Ret.)

Justice of the Supreme Court, Westchester, Presiding Justice of the Commercial Division

In 2018, for the fifth year in a row, Honorable John P. DiBlasi has been voted one of the Top 3 Mediators in the United States by the National Law Journal Reader Rankings Survey (4 years as #1). For the second year in a row, he was named a National Law Journal *Alternative Dispute Resolution Champion*, as part of a select group of only 37 nationwide (2017, 2016). Judge DiBlasi was also ranked a Top 10 Mediator in the 2017 New York Law Journal Annual Survey for the eighth consecutive year. Further, he was named a Super Lawyer for the fifth straight year in 2017.

Judge DiBlasi's ADR practice encompasses a wide and varied range of cases, inclusive of commercial, class actions, civil rights, corporate dissolution, employment, debtor/creditor, investor fraud, libel and slander, professional liability—breach of loyalty/fiduciary duty, usury as well as multi-party catastrophic personal injury actions. Judge DiBlasi is based in New York City but also hears cases throughout the country. In addition to hearing cases throughout New York State, he has handled significant, high-stakes matters in Boston, Chicago, Hartford, Las Vegas and Miami.

Judge DiBlasi's many years of experience as a full-time arbitrator and mediator in commercial disputes are supplemented by his past tenure as the presiding justice of the commercial division of the Supreme Court, where he resolved hundreds of matters. As the first 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 which are similar to those used in the federal courts. While on the bench, he presided over complex commercial litigation involving contracts, employment, real property/land use matters and environmental litigation, and developed extensive experience in the trial and settlement of complex commercial and personal injury matters. Judge DiBlasi created the Commercial Alternative Dispute Resolution Program, which was successfully implemented by the Court.

As a mediator, Judge DiBlasi has developed a reputation for settling the most complex matters and is persistent in following up with parties after the mediation in an effort to assist the parties in reaching and finalizing a 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. Although Judge DiBlasi's experience encompasses a wide-variety of subject matter expertise, he can take on almost any subject matter that is brought before him, as he is known to be well prepared and adept at comprehending even the most challenging issues.

Judge DiBlasi has mediated and/or arbitrated hundreds of 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.



ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION EXPERIENCE AND REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

- Business/Commercial
- Construction
- Employment
- Entertainment
- Environmental
- Government/Public Agencies
- Insurance/Re-Insurance Coverage
- International Law
- Labor Law
- Land Use
- Maritime/Jones Act
- Medical Malpractice
- Negligence
- Personal Injury
- Premises Liability
- Product Liability
- Professional Liability
- Toxic Torts

- Fraud action related to Ponzi scheme and resultant issues of insurance coverage for investors who sustained significant losses;
- Trademark infringement subsequent to termination of distribution agreement;
- Class action involving claims against a municipality by commercial property owners;
- Corporate dissolution involving the distribution of assets and the formulation of an agreement regarding corporate governance during wind down period;
- Breach of contract involving the supply of defective products to a contractor involved in the construction of a sports arena, whose damages included the loss of the contract and ensuing damage to the business as a whole;
- Breach of loyalty and fraud by an officer of a national corporation and counterclaims for libel and slander;
- Financing agreement dispute involving an eight figure claim with a refusal to repay based upon contingencies that could be considered as interest thereby making the agreement usurious under Federal and State Law and SBA regulations;
- Workout of SBA loan default where the company was improperly dissolved by the CEO and investors had secured the loan with their personal assets and guarantees;
- 1983 Civil Rights action involving individual wrongfully imprisoned for seventeen years on rape and murder charges;
- Employment actions involving breach of contract, FMLA violations, prevailing wage rates, sexual harassment, and sexual assault;
- Valuation of hotel properties and default on loans;
- Resolution of a legal malpractice action subject to a high low agreement based upon on the Appellate Court’s review of the lower court’s decision on a dispositive motion;
- Commercial libel and tortious interference arbitration involving a nationally known media figure;
- Fire loss mediations stemming from a massive fire loss converted to fifty arbitrations so as to ensure court approval of the settlement and distribution of limited funds;
- Fee dispute arbitration between law firms involving seven figure claim;
- Arbitration involving contract interpretation and charges there under by contractor providing services to national hotel chains.

ONLINE LAWLINE SEMINARS

- “Maximizing Your Potential For Success at Mediation”, Televised Lecture for Lawline CLE National Webcast, 2014 - [http://youtu.be/ YGt6Ps00Qg](http://youtu.be/YGt6Ps00Qg)
- “Dealing With a Difficult Client During Mediation”, Televised Lecture for Lawline CLE National Webcast, 2014 - <http://youtu.be/rAHIB5M5faQ>

LECTURES and WRITINGS

- Speaker/Panel Member, “The Art of Arbitration: Best Practices and Tips from The Arbitrators”, presented to the Queens County Bar Association, 2017
- Speaker/Panel Member, “Arbitration of Commercial Disputes: Hot Topics and Tips From 3 Perspectives”, presented to Reed Smith LLP, 2017
- Speaker, “Ten Mistakes to Avoid at Mediation – Improving the Odds for a Resolution”, CLE for the Practising Law Institute, 2017
- Speaker/Panel Member, “Best Practices and Tips for Mediation: 4 Perspectives”, presented to Goldberg Segalla LLP, 2017
- Speaker/Panel Member, “Arbitration of Commercial Disputes: Best Practices and Tips from the Arbitrators”, presented to Kelley Drye & Warren LLP, 2017
- Speaker, Conference and Settlement and Mediation in Commercial and Personal Injury Cases, New York County Lawyers Association (NYCLA), 40th Annual Civil Trial Practice Institute – A Bridge the Gap for Litigators, 2017
- Author, When Drafting An Arbitration Clause, Specificity Matters, *New York Law Journal Alternative Dispute Resolution Special Report*, 2016
- Author, Preparing Your Witness And Yourself For A Trial or Arbitration, *National Law Journal, Corporate Counsel*, 2016
- Author, Creative Solutions In The Commercial Mediation Process, *National Law Journal, Corporate Counsel*, 2016
- Author, Challenges of The “Party” Arbitration in the Commercial Setting, *National Law Journal, Corporate Counsel*, 2016
- Author, Creative Solutions in the Commercial Mediation Process, *National Law Journal, Corporate Counsel*, 2016
- Author, Preparing Your Witness and Yourself for Trial or Arbitration, *National Law Journal, Corporate Counsel*, 2016
- Speaker/Panel Member, “Best Practices and Tips on Mediation and Arbitration from a Neutral”, 2015
- Co-Author, Drafting the Arbitration Provision in Commercial Contracts, Part 2, The Nuts and Bolts That Makes a Provision Work, *National Law Journal, Corporate Counsel*, 2015
- Co-Author, Drafting the Arbitration Provision in Commercial Contracts, Part 1, Back to Basics: Important Considerations Not To Be Overlooked, *National Law Journal, Corporate Counsel*, 2015
- Moderator & Speaker, “Mediation As A Tool To Resolve Complex E-Discovery Disputes”, sponsored by The Commercial and Federal Litigation Section of the New York State Bar Association, Moderator & Speaker, 2015
- Author, 10 Tips From The Mediator – Gaining A Client’s Acceptance, *National Law Journal, Corporate Counsel*, 2014
- Author, 10 Breakout Session Tips For The Mediator – What You Need To Remember, *National Law Journal, Corporate Counsel*, 2014
- Speaker/Panel Member, International Arbitration Institute, New York, N.Y., 2014
- Author, Speaking to the Bereaved Parent – A Mediator’s Perspective, *New York State Trial Lawyer’s Journal*, New York State Trial Lawyers, 2014
- Speaker/Panel Member, New York State Bar Association Commercial Litigation Academy, “Choice of Venue”, 2014
- Author, The Mediation Brief – 10 Ways To Use It To Your Advantage, *New York Law Journal*, 2014
- Author, The Commercial Arbitration – Single versus Tri-Panel, *New York Law Journal*, 2014
- Author, Ten Mistakes to Avoid at the Mediation – Improving The Odds For Resolution, *New York Law Journal*, 2014
- Author, Making the Best Use of the Break-Out Session at Mediation, *New York Law Journal*, 2014
- Author, Exchanging the Mediation Brief – Is It In Your Best Interest?, *New York Law Journal*, 2014
- Author, Making the Most of the Joint Session at Mediation – 7 Do’s And Don’ts, *New York Law Journal*, 2014
- Author, Making the Most of the Evaluative Process At Mediation, *New York Law Journal*, 2014
- Author, Addressing Legal Issues with the Mediator And Timing In Seeking An Evaluation, *New York Law Journal*, 2014
- Author, Seeking an Evaluation from the Mediator And The Pre-Mediation Brief, *New York Law Journal*, 2014
- Author, Accepted for Publication, Speaking to the Bereaved Parent – A Mediator’s Perspective, *New York State Trial Lawyer’s Journal*, 2013

- Guest Lecturer, “Litigating the Products Liability Case: Law and Practice” and “Mediation - A Mediator’s View & Nuances of the Product Mediation”, New York State Bar Association CLE Program, 2013
- Author, Maximize Your Potential For Success At Mediation, *New York Law Journal*, Special Section/Alternative Dispute Resolution, 2012
- CLE Instructor, Westchester Bar Association
- CLE Instructor, New York State Trial Lawyers
- CLE Instructor, New York State Bar Association
- Instructor, New York State Judge’s School
- CPR Institute Mediation Training, 2-day course, 14.5 Skills and 1.0 Ethics CLE Credits, January 13-14, 2010
- Nominated as a respected and objective leader in County Land Use to attend Land Use Alliance Training program in conjunction with Pace University School of Law, 2009
- Center for Mediation in Law, Accredited Provider of CLE in the State of New York, 40 Hours, 36 CLE Credits
- Completed Mediation Intensive Training, New York
- Published articles on trial tactics in *The New York State Bar Journal* and Articles on Alternative Dispute Resolution in both *The New York Law Journal* and *New York State Trial Lawyers Journal*
- Lecturer, “Winning Depositions A-Z,” sponsored by the Trial Lawyers Section of the New York State Bar Association and Committee on Continuing Legal Education
- Author, Preparing An Expert Witness Is A Multi-Step Process, *New York State Bar Journal*, May 2003
- Lecturer, “Deposition Practice and Practicalities in State and Federal Court,” sponsored by the Commercial and Federal Litigation Section Committee on Continuing Legal Education of the New York State Bar Association, 2002
- Author, Thorough Trial Preparation Is Vital For Courtroom Success, *New York State Bar Journal*, June 2002
- Author, The Use Of Depositions At Trial, *New York State Bar Journal*, October, 2001
- Author, Amending The Domestic Relations Law Enforcement Provisions: A Modest Proposal To Avoid Chaos In The Courts, Domestic Law Review, Family Law Section, Family Law Review, *New York State Bar Journal*, December 1996
- Author, The Felony Hearing Process-Taking A Second Look, *New York State Bar Journal*, September 1995, co-authored with Barry J. Skwiersky, Esq.
- Author, Preparing Your Witness For Trial, *New York State Bar Journal*, December, 1993
- Selecting Your Mediator
- Preparing For The Mediation
- Lecturer, New York State Bar Association, New York State Trial Lawyers, the New York State Judges’ School, the Practicing Law Institute of New York, and other Bar Associations
- Adjunct Professor, Law at Pace University and St. John’s University Schools of Law
- Alternative Commercial Dispute Resolution Program

HONORS and AWARDS

- Ranked a Top 3 Mediator in the United States by the 2018 National Law Journal Survey
- Ranked the #1 Mediator in the United States by the 2017 National Law Journal Reader Rankings Survey
- Ranked the #1 Mediator in the United States by the 2016 National Law Journal Reader Rankings Survey
- Ranked the #1 Mediator in the United States by the 2015 National Law Journal Reader Rankings Survey

- Ranked the #1 Mediator in the United States by the 2014 National Law Journal Reader Rankings Survey
- National Law Journal, *2017 Alternative Dispute Resolution Champion*
- National Law Journal, *2016 Alternative Dispute Resolution Champion*
- New York Law Journal Reader Rankings Survey 2017, Top Ten - Best Individual Mediator Category
- New York Law Journal Reader Rankings Survey 2016, Top Ten - Best Individual Mediator Category
- New York Law Journal Reader Rankings Survey 2015, Top Ten - Best Individual Mediator Category
- New York Law Journal Reader Rankings Survey 2014, Top Ten - Best Individual Mediator Category
- New York Law Journal Reader Rankings Survey 2013, Top Ten - Best Individual Mediator Category
- New York Law Journal Reader Rankings Survey 2013, Top Ten - Best Individual Arbitrator Category
- New York Law Journal Reader Rankings Survey 2012, Top Ten - Best Individual Mediator Category
- New York Law Journal Reader Rankings Survey 2012, Winner - Best International Mediator Category
- New York Law Journal Reader Rankings Survey 2012, Top Five - Best Financial Markets Mediator Category
- New York Law Journal Reader Rankings Survey 2011, Top Five - Best Individual Mediator Category
- New York Law Journal Reader Rankings Survey 2010, Winner - Best Individual Mediator Category
- Super Lawyer Designation 2017
- Super Lawyer Designation 2016
- Super Lawyer Designation 2015
- Super Lawyer Designation 2014
- Super Lawyer Designation 2013
- 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)

PROFESSIONAL LICENSES and ADMISSIONS

- New York State Bar (1981)
- U.S. District Court, Southern and Eastern Districts of New York (1981)

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

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

- Arbitrator and Mediator, National Arbitration and Mediation (NAM), (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

MEMBERSHIPS AND PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Life Fellow, American and New York Bar Foundations
- Member, NYS Bar Association

EDUCATION

- St. John's University School of Law, J.D. (1980)
- Syracuse University, AB (1977)
- Judge Advocate Officer's Basic Course (1990)
- Certificate in Human Resource Management, Villanova University (2005)