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For more than 25 years I served as a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania. During that time, I also was appointed to serve as a bankruptcy judge on cases pending in Delaware (20 years), the Eastern District of Pennsylvania (8 years) and the U.S. Virgin Islands (9 years). I have had the privilege of helping parties resolve their disputes thousands of times. On many of those occasions the dispute was resolved when I made a decision. However, far more matters before me were resolved through settlement than through adjudication. My skills as a mediator have been honed through my experience and my training. Those skills have been recognized by other judges who referred difficult cases to me for mediation.

During my service as a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge, I presided over cases in a wide variety of industries including heavy industrial, chemical processing, steel companies, mining and agricultural facilities, electronics, restaurants, large and mid-sized retail chains, and more. I developed an expertise in mass tort bankruptcy cases, having presided over more than any other bankruptcy judge in the country. I encountered nearly every type of legal dispute that can arise, including contract disputes and construction claims, malpractice actions, tort and mass tort allegations, real estate matters such as boundary, title and mortgage disputes, corporate actions such as shareholder, officer and director liability matters, commercial disputes involving negotiable instruments and secured transactions, and equitable distribution. Although much of my legal experience has been in bankruptcy court, my mediation skills are not limited to bankruptcy issues.

Prior to my appointment to the bench, I was as an Assistant U.S. Attorney with criminal, civil and bankruptcy litigation experience and appellate work before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. I settled many cases in that 11+ years. Since returning to private practice, I have served as a court-appointed mediator and have handled settlement discussions in out-of-court matters.

During my service as a Bankruptcy Judge in the WDPA, the EDPA, Delaware and the USVI, I had hands-on experience mediation and settling cases. I also both planned and attended mediation training courses, including courses sponsored by the Federal Judicial Center, the Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of PA, the Allegheny Bar Association, the American Bankruptcy Institute and others. I have the experience, temperament and background to help parties reach an amicable settlement of their disputes.