

Connie L. Rakowsky
Rakowsky Mediation
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DISPUTE RESOLUTION EXPERIENCE

Rakowsky Mediation

Served as a neutral in more than 200 matters in diverse areas with complex legal, financial and interpersonal issues. In many matters, 4 or more participants are included. Subject matter experience in a wide variety of practice areas. Early adopter of adr and especially mediation in 1990's, having chaired and served on a Continuing Legal Education Panel in 1995. Presenter on behalf of the NH Women's Bar, and NH Bar Association on Mediation. Honored to serve on many mediation panels with opportunities to mediate many interesting matters, including the 2017 appointment to GT Advanced Technologies Jointly Administered Chapter 11 Bankruptcy Mediator Claim Avoidance Panel in 2017. Have had the good fortune to successfully help participants find resolution in most matters.

Representative matters with mediation experience, including:

- Bankruptcy (trustee actions, fraud, claims),
- Commercial (contract, construction, succession planning, corporate, partnership, LLC, business opportunity, trade secrets, lease, license, franchises),
- Employment (termination, contract, non-compete agreements),
- Foreclosure/Creditor (business and consumer, intercreditor, lien disputes, guarantee, secured and unsecured, priority),
- Non-Profit (board disputes, dissolution, regulatory and breach of fiduciary duty),
- Probate (trust and will disputes, minor and adult guardianship, accounting, fraud, fiduciary duty, undue influence, charitable trusts, no contest, special needs, elder care and their assets, nursing home disputes, fees), and
- Real Estate (partition, quiet title, adverse possession, purchase and sales, easements, family compound disputes, liens).

Mediation Panel Memberships

State of New Hampshire Superior, Probate, and Business Court Mediator Panels
Maine CADRES and York County Probate Panel Member
NH & Maine USDA Agricultural Mediation Panels Member
United States District Court Mediator Panel
American Arbitration Association Mediation Panel

Arbitration: American Arbitration Association Commercial and Consumer Panels Member.

Matters arbitrated: Arbitrated substantial trademark infringement, UCC and breach of contract involving arbitrability; arbitrated many franchise cases under the Expedited Procedures.

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Legal Advice and Referral Center (LARC)
Concord, New Hampshire

Executive Director
July 2009-February 2016

Responsible for the overall management of statewide legal aid services program serving more than 1500 clients annually.

Accomplishments:

- Implemented more than 200% increase in clients served without sacrificing quality and without additional funding,
- Increased legal educational learning tenfold,
- Guided organization through two successful federal program and financial audits,
- Diversified funding sources and avoided layoffs when funder made deep cuts, and
- Implemented staff COLA and parity raises while reducing non-labor expenses.

Duties included:

- Financial management, including A-133 audit and tax filings,
- Apply, comply, and report on federal and other grants,
- Manage communications,
- Evaluate and modify operations to improve client services,
- Collaborate with the courts, and stakeholders,
- Organizational visionary and lead strategic planning,
- Supervise, hire and evaluate staff, contract employees and volunteers, and
- Manage fundraising.

Orr & Reno, P.A.
Concord, New Hampshire

Shareholder and Director 1985-2008,
Associate Attorney 1981-1985

Peer Rated "AV" Martindale Hubbell

Practice concentration in general business, debtor/creditor, insolvency and real estate.

- Business practice providing strategic and transaction-specific support to senior management of private companies from inception through growth and expansion in variety of industries. Work included employment, mergers and acquisitions, dissolutions and separations of owners, succession planning, contract, franchise matters. Also administrative agency assistance and regulatory support for banking, alternative energy and utilities.
- Debtor/Creditor practice providing counsel to institutions, banks and individuals for secured and unsecured debt, intercreditor arrangements, equitable subordinations, lender liability and other claims related to equity and debt. Planning and implementation of restructurings and workouts for lenders and borrowers.
- Bankruptcy and insolvency practice primarily in chapter 11 matters as counsel to debtors and creditors of secured and unsecured claims. Representative matters included contested plan confirmations, trustee claims, preferences, fraudulent conveyances, employment, lease, contract and stay matters. Involvement in several high profile cases.
- Real Estate practice providing counsel to real estate developers, businesses, title insurance companies and individuals generally and for easements for conservation, flowage, light, railroad and utility.

EDUCATION

Chicago-Kent College of Law, Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago, Illinois,
J.D., 1981

Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois,
B.A., 1974

Multiple mediation trainings, including as a presenter to lawyers and professionals,
mid-1990's to present, (details available upon request) especially:

St. John's Law School/Hugh Carey Dispute Resolution Center,
Bankruptcy Mediation, 40 hour Training, December 2016.

Franklin Pierce Law Center (now UNH Law), 40 hour Mediation Skills for
Intellectual Property and Commercial Disputes, 2002.

JAMS/Endispute, 40 hour Mediation Training, 1995.

Various trainings in legal issues, including as a presenter in areas of expertise, 1981-present.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES & HONORS

Recipient, Marilla Ricker Achievement Award, 2013, NH Women's Bar Association

Presented to women who have achieved professional excellence, and paved the
way to success for other women lawyers, or advanced opportunities for women in
the legal profession, and/or performed exemplary public service on behalf of women.

Appointed Member, Access to Justice Commission, 2010-current.

Co-Chair Stakeholders Group, Court-Annexed Foreclosure Mediation Program, 2008-2010.

Appointed Member, State Retirement System, COLA Commission, 2008-2009.

President, New Hampshire Legal Assistance and Legal Advice and Referral Center Board of Directors,
2007-2009, 1999-2009 Member.

Member, New Hampshire Women's Policy Institute Board of Directors, 2007-2012.

Vice Chair, Small Business Development Council Advisory Board, 2007-2008,
Member 2000-2008.

Elected Member, Board of Directors of Meritas, an international network of "AV rated"
Law firms, 2004-2007.

Appointed Member, Merit Selection Panels for the U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the District of New
Hampshire, 1993 and 1997.

Bar Memberships, State of New Hampshire, United States District of New Hampshire,
United States Bankruptcy Court District of New Hampshire, 1981, NH Women's Bar Association.

References available upon request