

Edward D. (“Edd”) McDevitt

Attorney, Arbitrator, Mediator
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Summary of Professional History

On May 1, 2014, I withdrew from the firm of Bowles Rice LLP as a Senior Partner to provide full time neutral services as a mediator and arbitrator. I am compliant with Rule 25.04 of the West Virginia Trial Court Rules. My background includes over 40 years of alternative dispute resolution, encompassing mandatory and voluntary court-based and contract based arbitration and mediation involving injury, complex litigation, energy, construction, real property, employment, consumer, insurance, securities, financial and commercial disputes. The United States District Court for the Southern District of West Virginia appointed me as a member of its first panel of mediators, where I mediated a number of complex matters, including those involving serologist Fred Zain. I also served as the primary West Virginia arbitrator in the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission proceedings against Prudential Securities, where I rendered the first decision in the nation in that process. I have mediated hundreds of cases and served as an arbitrator or attorney in more than 250 arbitration cases.

As a practicing attorney I represented plaintiffs and defendants, individuals and business entities, primarily in commercial and business dispute resolution in federal and state trials, arbitrations, mediations, negotiations, settlements and enforcement actions. These cases involved injury cases, explosions, discrimination issues, partnership, corporate, shareholder and employee disputes, misappropriation of corporate assets and opportunities, interference with contracts and prospective business advantage and unfair competition matters, non-competition covenants, trade secrets and confidential business information, UCC issues, lender liability, fraud in connection with the purchase and sale of securities, health care industry, real estate, employment, public sector political conflicts between public bodies and private individuals and entities and other public bodies, construction, general contract and energy matters . I served as the chair of the Commercial Litigation Section of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America (now the American Association for Justice).

The above experience encompassed general litigation including arguing motions, trying cases, arguing appellate issues, as well as the transaction side of many of the above areas.

Bar Admissions

State of West Virginia
U.S. District Court-Southern District of West Virginia
U.S. District Court-Northern District of West Virginia
U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (inactive)
U.S. District Court-Eastern District of Pennsylvania
United States Tax Court

**Recognitions
(selected)**

Martindale-Hubbell AV (5.0/5.0)
Best Lawyers in America
West Virginia University - Mountain Honorary

Employment History**May 2014-Present**

Self-employed Mediator and Arbitrator, Charleston, WV

**January 1989-May
2014**

Partner (and later Senior Partner) Bowles Rice LLP, Charleston, WV

**March 1986-
December 1988**

Owner, Law Office of Edward D. McDevitt, Charleston, WV

**October 1978-
March 1986**

Attorney/Partner, Preiser & Wilson L.C., Charleston, WV

**May 1974-October
1978**

Associate, Stack & Gallagher, P.C., Philadelphia, PA

May-August 1973

Summer Clerk, City of Philadelphia, Office of the City Solicitor,
Philadelphia, Pa.

May-August 1972

Summer Clerk, Office of the Auditor General Commonwealth of
Pennsylvania, Harrisburg, PA

Education

- 1974 J.D. West Virginia University College of Law
Moot Court Board, research assistant in trade regulation and consumer protection law, academic advisor to pre-commerce students in College of Business.
- 1969 A.B. West Virginia University
Mountain (University Ranking Honorary), Student Resident Hall Assistant
- 1967 A.A. Community College of Philadelphia
Member of first graduating class, taught business law, appointed Trustee by Mayor of Philadelphia (first alum to serve on Board)

Presentations

Over the years I have made numerous presentations to the Bar and private groups on various substantive, procedural, evidentiary and discovery issues. These presentations covered such diverse topics as ADR issues, “The Use of the Fifth Amendment in Civil Discovery”, contracts, government purchasing, public finance, education financing, Delaware corporate law, “Definition of a Security”, general commercial, business and consumer laws.

Organizations (selected)

Fellow-American College of Civil Trial Mediators
The West Virginia State Bar-member of ADR Committee

American Bar Association - member of the Dispute Resolution (Co-Chair 2018, 2019 and 2020 Advanced Mediation and Advocacy Skills Training Institute, Co-Chair Mediation Committee 2019—);
Litigation and Business Law Sections, Construction Law Forum and various committees; while in active practice served as Liaison with the West Virginia Securities Division.

Omohundra Institute of Early American History and Culture – member of the Associates
Funds for the Arts–Board Member
Charleston Area Medical Center-
Women and Children Hospital - volunteer

Professional Network Disclosure

I use a number of online professional networks such as LinkedIn and group email systems. I generally accept requests from other professionals to be added to my LinkedIn website but I do not maintain a database of all these professional contacts and their connections. LinkedIn now features endorsements, which I do not seek and have no control over who may endorse me for different skills. The existence of such links or endorsements does not indicate any depth of relationship other than an online professional connection, similar to connections in professional organizations.