



Panelist Video

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Current Employer-Title

Blank Rome LLP – Of Counsel

Profession

Attorney – Commercial Litigation; Arbitrator, Mediator, Retired United States District Judge

Work History

Of Counsel, Blank Rome LLP, February 2018 - Present; Of Counsel, Pepper Hamilton LLP, 2008 - 2017; United States District Judge (Eastern District of Pennsylvania), 1980 - 2008; Partner, Pepper Hamilton LLP, 1975 - 1979; Associate, Pepper Hamilton LLP, 1968 - 1975; Attorney, NLRB, 4th Regional Office, Philadelphia, 1967 - 1968.

Experience

Since retiring from the federal bench, after almost 29 years (seven of which were as chief judge), has been engaged in consultation on commercial litigation matters in the areas of anti-trust, pharmaceuticals and medical devices, defamation, commercial contracts, and employment.

The Eastern District of Pennsylvania District Court is one of the largest metropolitan courts in country having at various times during judicial tenure 21 active judges and 12 working senior judges, presiding over a wide range of cases including: constitutional, statutory, contractual, tort-based, from the comparatively simple to the highly complex, including a variety of specially assigned MDL case consolidations. Personally, presided in many civil and criminal cases and almost daily decided case dispositive motions. Only on a limited, strategic basis, delegated discovery and settlement matters to magistrate judges; regularly elected to conduct settlement, discovery and scheduling conferences for effective case management and docket control.

Appointed by the Multi-Litigation Panel to manage, for trial readiness and to attempt to settle, significant MDL cases, among them In re Asbestos Products Liability Litigation, which initially involved more than 13 million asbestos cases, and In re Air Crash near Peggy's Cove, which involved the Swiss Air airline crash over international waters near Nova Scotia in September 1998; and presided over through settlement other mass tort class actions including In re Asbestos School Litigation, which was national in scope.

Periodically, designated to sit with panels of Third Circuit Court of Appeals.

Beginning in 1990, was regularly specially designated by chief judges of the Third Circuit Court of Appeals to preside as a visiting district judge for the District Court of the Virgin Islands, which had persistent civil and criminal docket backlogs due to unfilled judicial vacancies. Periodically, designated to sit as Appellate Panel

Hon. James T. Giles
Neutral ID : 156488

Judge by Third Circuit to review appeals from the Virgin Islands Superior Court prior to formation of the Supreme Court of the Virgin Islands.

Prior to district judge appointment, was labor and employment partner representing primarily management clients in areas of labor negotiations, unfair labor practice charges, labor injunctions, federal contract compliance and statutory employee workplace claims; represented pro bono community development corporations and indigent juveniles in criminal proceedings.

Alternative Dispute Resolution Experience

Has served as arbitrator on a variety of subjects including: inter-insurance company tier agreements relating to product liability coverage, business partnership dissolution, employment, personal injury, medical malpractice and attorney fee disputes, both independently and with ADR Options, Inc. in Philadelphia (2008-2014).

RECENT ARBITRATIONS:

Contract performance obligations and legal excuses for breach thereof relating to COVID-19 pandemic conditions affecting international supply chain and domestic delivery systems;
Claim regarding ERISA investment committee fiduciary obligations and liabilities;
Breach of contract dispute between banking industry entities;
Claim regarding executive employee contract termination;
Termination of contract dispute between engineering services provider and national manufacturer.

PUBLISHED AWARD:

Attorney fee dispute arising from environmental litigation involving governmental entity, national and international companies.

MEDIATIONS:

Claims of race and gender discrimination at executive level and non-compete issues in employment contract.

Claim of breach of non-compete provisions of an employment contract in medical device industry.

Claims of religious discrimination against major hospital related to employee vaccination policy.

Alternative Dispute Resolution Training

2021 AAA-ICDR Panel Conference; ACE21 Impartiality: Do You Know Where Your Biases Are? 2021; Arbitrator Disclosure: March 9-10, 2020, ABA Section of Dispute Resolution, 13th Annual Arbitration Training, Phoenix AZ; Ignorance is Not Bliss, 2019; ACE20 Cyber Security: A Shared Responsibility, 2019; Exercises for Improving Impartiality: Becoming a Better Arbitrator, 2019; AAA/ICDR/AAA Mediation.org Panel Conference, 2019; ABA Section of Dispute Resolution 12th Annual Arbitration Training Institute, May 16-17, 2019, Phila., PA; Arbitration and Mediation in a Changing World, Nashville, TN; AAA Arbitration Fundamentals and Best Practices for New AAA Arbitrators, 2018; AAA Arbitration Awards - Safeguarding, Deciding and Writing Awards, 2018; Exploring Critical Issues in Arbitration, AAA/ICDR/NYU School of Law Conference, 2016; AAA, Mediator

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The AAA provides arbitrators to parties on cases administered by the AAA under its various Rules, which delegate authority to the AAA on various issues, including arbitrator appointment and challenges, general oversight, and billing. Arbitrations that proceed without AAA administration are not considered "AAA arbitrations," even if the parties were to select an arbitrator who is on the AAA's Roster.

Essentials, Skills for Facilitating Negotiated Agreements, 2015

Professional Licenses

Admitted to the Bar: Pennsylvania, 1968; Supreme Court of Pennsylvania; Supreme Court of the United States; U.S. District Court – Eastern District of Pennsylvania; United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

Professional Associations

Fellow, College of Commercial Arbitrators (2020); Former Member, Board of Directors and Executive Committee, American Arbitration Association (2011-2020).

Education

Yale Law School (LLB-1967); Amherst College (BA-1964)

Awards and Honors

2019, Philadelphia Inquirer's Influencers of Law, Lifetime Achievement Award.

2010, "A. Leon Higginbotham Jr. Lifetime Achievement Award," by the Diversity Council of the Pennsylvania Bar Association, in recognition of dedication to the legal profession and the minority community through civil, community, and legal service.

2000, "Justice William J. Brennan, Jr. Distinguished Jurist Award," by the Philadelphia Bar Association.

**Citizenship
Languages
Locale**

United States of America

English

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, United States of America

Compensation

Hearing:	\$750.00/Hr
Study:	\$750.00/Hr
Cancellation Period:	3 Days
Comment:	

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