



Joseph P. Farina (Retired Chief Judge 11th Judicial Circuit)



Joseph P. Farina, retired Chief Judge 11th Judicial Circuit, is highly regarded as an active and effective settlement judge who has handled and managed numerous settlements of complex cases. He served as a Circuit Judge in the Circuit Civil Division of the 11th Judicial Circuit in Miami-Dade County, Florida. From 1995 to 2009, he served for 14 years as Chief Judge and supervised the full operations of the Miami-Dade Court system, which is comprised of 123 judges, 15 general magistrates, 20 traffic hearing officers, and more than 500 administrative court staff serving in 10 courthouses.

Mr. Farina has been recognized by many national, state, and local organizations for his leadership, professionalism, and accomplishments. During his more than 30 years on the bench, Mr. Farina has consistently been rated one of the top judges in bar association polls.

ADR Experience and Qualifications

- While handling the asbestos and Chinese drywall calendars, Mr. Farina presided over 3,500 cases, including complex business and financial disputes, class actions, product liability claims, significant personal injuries, including death claims, and a substantial number of commercial and residential foreclosure cases together with a civil docket involving claims in excess of \$15,000
- Conducted numerous settlement conferences during his service on the Circuit Court
- Florida Supreme Court's Civil Mediator Certification, 2005
- Florida Supreme Court Certified Arbitrator
- Mr. Farina presided over hundreds of hearings and trials involving a wide variety of issues including:
 - **Business/Commercial:** Breach of contract and indebtedness, civil forfeitures, commercial foreclosures, corporate and business governance, declaratory judgments, discovery disputes, fraud, factoring and financing, indemnification and contribution, injunctive relief, insurance claims, partnerships/joint ventures, premises liability, replevin, shareholder disputes, trade names, unfair/deceptive business practices
 - **Class Action/Mass Tort:** Presided over nation's first Chinese drywall jury trial, asbestos and Chinese drywall litigation, class certification, constitutional challenges, economic loss rule, fairness hearings, Frye hearings, mesothelioma, motions in limine
 - **Construction:** Disputes involving construction of and damage to residential and commercial buildings, construction liens
 - **Employment:** Breach of employment contracts, non-compete agreements
 - **Environmental:** County ordinance and state statute enforcement, regulation, violation
 - **Personal Injury/Torts:** Presided over wrongful death actions involving an Arrow Air plane crash, change of venue, Fabre issues, forum non conveniens, libel/slander, motor vehicle and water craft negligence, negligent security, premises liability, product liability, punitive damages, sexual abuse, slip and fall, treble damages, trust litigation, wrongful death actions
 - **Professional Liability:** Business, legal, and medical malpractice claims, loss of license hearings
 - **Real Property:** Residential and commercial claims, leases, purchases and sales, commercial and residential mortgage foreclosures, commission claims, condemnation, condominium, deposit returns, homeowner associations, landlord-tenant disputes, land use

Honors, Memberships, and Professional Activities

- **Honors**
 - Recipient of the "OSCA" award for Outstanding Leadership and Inspired Vision for Florida's Judicial Branch, presented by the State Courts Administrator, August 11, 2012
 - Appreciation recognition for Leadership, Dedication and Guidance to the Florida Conference of Circuit Judges, presented by the Conference Chair, August 14, 2012
 - Chief Justice's Commendation in recognition of service to the judicial branch during tenure

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"Where past mediations did not help, Judge Farina was a Godsend in sorting out this convoluted nightmare and ending years of fruitless litigation. It never would have resolved without Judge Farina; his legal expertise and savviness with the parties led to a miraculous conclusion to these dispute. I always respected Judge Farina on the bench, and I respect him now as a mediator. I cannot thank him enough for interceding to resolve this case."

-- Prominent Litigation Attorney

"Thank you [Judge Farina] for your effort, patience, and understanding at the mediation. There was no shortage of contention in this case and, to be honest, I thought it was unlikely that the parties would reach a complete settlement of the claims. When we actually got to that point, I was so impressed."

-- Attorney at South Florida Business Litigation Firm

"We greatly appreciate Judge Farina's time and extensive effort. There are not many mediators who would have been as patient as he was in hammering out the final details..."

-- Attorney at Prominent Florida Business Litigation Firm

Case Manager

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as Chief Judge, June 2009

- Proclamation by Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners, establishing Joseph P. Farina Day on June 17, 2009 in honor of service to the community
- Greater Miami Jewish Federation's 2009 Community Service Award, March 2009
- Justice Teaching Champion Award in recognition of dedication to the education and protection of Florida's children, June 2009
- Cuban American Bar Association's Mario P. Goderich P.A.V.E.R (Professionalism, Achievement, Values, Excellence & Respect) Award, January 2009
- Florida Association for Women Lawyers' Theodore Klein Award, December 2008
- Justice Harry Lee Anstead Professionalism Award, Miami-Dade Justice Association, June 2007
- Honorable Gerald Kogan Judicial Distinction Award, Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, Miami Chapter, May 2007
- David W. Dyer Professionalism Award, Dade-County Bar Association, June 2005
- Sookie Williams Award Recognizing Exemplary Service to the Miami-Dade Legal Community, *Daily Business Review*, July 2004
- Jurist of the Year, Florida Chapters of the American Board of Trial Advocates, June 2004
- Distinguished Leadership Award, Conference of County Court Judges of Florida, May 2004
- **Memberships and Professional Activities**
 - Advisory Board Member, Association of Certified E-Discovery Specialists ([ACEDS](#)), 2013
 - Founding Advisory Board Member and guest instructor for the Law Enforcement Officers Memorial High School, a Miami-Dade County magnet high school dedicated to Legal Studies, Forensic Science and Homeland Security, 2010-present
 - Member, Standing Committee on Ethics and Professional Responsibility, Judges Advisory Committee for American Bar Association, 2011-present
 - Florida Chief Justice Representative on Executive Council of the Florida Clerk of Court Operations Corporation, July 2010-July 2012
 - Vice Chair, Florida Supreme Court's Judicial Branch Governance Study Group, 2009-2011
 - Chair, Florida Supreme Court's Strategic Planning Committee on Long Range Planning for the State Court System and Task Force on Judicial Branch Planning, November 2004-June 2009
 - Chair, Florida Supreme Court's Judicial Management Council, 2006-June 2008
 - President of the National Conference of Metropolitan Courts, which is composed of the Chief Judges of the Nation's Metropolitan Courts, October 1998-September 1999
 - Chair of the Judicial Administration Section of the Florida Conference of Circuit Judges, which is comprised of all Chief Judges of the State of Florida, July 1997-June 1999
 - Chair, Florida Conference of Circuit Judges, July 2001-June 2002
 - Member, Executive Committee of the Florida Conference of Circuit Court Judges, July 2002-July 2012
 - Member, Executive Committee of the Florida Supreme Court's Trial Court Budget Commission, July 2004-March 2012
 - Member, Florida Supreme Court Historical Society, July 2002-present
 - Member, 11th Judicial Circuit Historical Society, October 2006-present
 - Member, Alliance for Human Services Board of Directors, July 1998-December 2008

Background and Education

- Judge, Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida, 1979-2012
 - Chief Judge, 1995-2009
 - Administrative Judge, Circuit Criminal Division, 1992-1995
 - Judge, Circuit Court, 1981-2012
 - Judge, County Court, 1979-1981
- Mayor, Miami Shores, Florida, 1977-1979
- J.D., University of Florida College of Law, 1970
- B.A., George Washington University