



JUDGE LISA M. RAU (Ret.)

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EXPERIENCE

Founder, Mediator & Arbitrator, Resonate Mediation & Arbitration, LLC (December 2019-present)
Mediates and arbitrates complex civil cases including construction, products liability, employment, defamation, insurance, professional liability, personal injury, commercial, aviation, civil rights, dram shop, motor vehicle, assault and battery, contracts, property damage, and mass torts. Launched remote private jury trial service. Developed expertise in remote video-conferenced proceedings during COVID-19 pandemic.

Judge, Court of Common Pleas of Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia (2001-2019)

Appointed July 2001; Elected November 2001; Retained November 2011.

Team Leader, Civil Division, November 2013-April 2018.

As state court trial judge, presided in just over 1000 trials.

As Team Leader, supervised team of judges and managed trial and motion assignment of all major civil jury trials filed in a single year (up to 7,200 cases), presided over weekly discovery court, motions, pretrial conferences and settlement conferences. Mediated hundreds of resolutions in major civil cases.

Faculty, National Judicial College, Reno, Nevada (2007-2019)

Taught evidence and advanced evidence to judges nationwide & from other countries.

Partner, Kairys, Rudovsky, Epstein, Messing & Rau (1995-2001; partner 1997-2001)

Litigated complex class action and employment cases, mostly in federal court. Also, represented executives negotiating employment separation agreements and other disputes.

Attorney, Public Interest Law Center of Philadelphia (PILCOP) (1987-1995)

Represented clients in employment and other civil rights cases, especially class actions and individual cases of importance to the public.

Instructor in Civil Practice

Temple Law School, Adjunct Lecturer (2019) (Trial Advocacy – Civil)

University of Pennsylvania Law School, Adjunct Lecturer (1998) (Problem Solving)

Villanova Law School, Adjunct Lecturer (1995) (Civil Pre-Trial Practice)

Frequent Continuing Legal Education Instructor for attorneys (1994-present)

United States Peace Corps Volunteer, Khon Kaen, Thailand (1982-1984)

EDUCATION

National Judicial College, MA in judicial studies; GPA 4.0 (2019); Thesis: “The Philadelphia Experiment in Civil Case Management–Journey From Disaster to Model Court”

Stanford University Law School, J.D. (1987)

Associate Editor, Stanford Law Review

Colgate University, B.A., Psychology (high honors) *magna cum laude*, Phi Beta Kappa (1981)

ADR TRAINING

Strauss Institute, Pepperdine University, Mediating the Litigated Case (40 hours) (2020)

Center for Understanding in Conflict (2016, 2018, 2019)(>100 hours of mediation training)

National Judicial College

Professional Cert. in Dispute Resolution Trial Skills (120 hours) (2013)

Mediation, 2013 (40-hour course for certification as mediator)

Professional Cert. in Judicial Development & Gen. Jurisdiction Trial Skills (120 hours) (2009)

ABA, IAM, AAA various trainings in mediation and arbitration (2020)



ADR PANELS

AAA: Employment Mediation & Arbitration Panel; Settlement Judge & Special Master

NADN: Pennsylvania Chapter of National Academy of Distinguished Neutrals

CPR: Employment Disputes Panel-Northeast, Health Care and Life Sciences Panel, Judicial Panel, Product Liability Panel, Philadelphia ADR Panel

PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Online Courtroom Project (OCP), Advisory Task Force Member (June 2020-present)
National group of experts developing best practices for online court proceedings, including jury trials, using technology and other innovations.

ABA Section of Dispute Resolution (2020)

Pennsylvania Bar Association (2020)

Committees: Alternative Dispute Resolution, Professional Liability, Appellate Advocacy, Federal Practice, Quality of Life Balance

Philadelphia Bar Association Leadership

Civil Section 2019 Bar Star Award

Civil Section Executive Committee (2018-2020)

Member, Civil Litigation Section (2005-present)

Civil Gideon and Access to Justice Task Force (2018-2020)

Court of Common Pleas

Judicial Fellowship Program – Founded and oversaw program that placed >300 recent law graduates in volunteer service for judges who provided legal training, experience and mentoring; the majority of fellows left the fellowship having secured paid employment prior to their departure (2010-2019)

MENTOR-Co-founder of reentry court that linked volunteer citizen mentors with recently convicted criminal defendants to reduce recidivism; participants attended court educational programs, status listings and met with mentors; successful participants received a reduction in the length of their court supervision; successfully reduced recidivism rate (2013-2017)

Landlord Tenant Liaison Committee and Landlord Tenant Appellate Mediation Program (LTAMP) – Established committee to improve Court procedures and enhance access for self-represented and low-income litigants; facilitated creation of Court mediation program for appeals using volunteer lawyer mediators that significantly reduced number of appeals (2007-2010)

Civil Rules Committee (2003-2019)

Judicial Education Committee (2001-2015)

Co-Chair of Judicial Education Committee (2006-2009)

National Center for State Courts Civil Study Review Committee, Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas (December 2004-2005)

American College of Business Court Judges (2008-2011); Education Committee

Temple Inn of Court (2005-2008) (2007 National Outstanding Program Award)

University of Pennsylvania Law School Inn of Court (2000-2002)

Community Service

Advancing Civics Education, Instructor, Phila. Public High Schools (2018, 2008)

Philadelphia Volunteers for the Indigent, Board of Directors (2008-2013)

Philadelphia READS, Tutor (2001-2002)