



THE RESOLUTION EXPERTS



Hon. Diane M. Welsh (Ret.) is highly respected for her ability to successfully resolve even the most emotionally charged disputes with sensitivity, patience, and persistence. As a U.S. Magistrate Judge for 12 years, she has managed and resolved virtually every type of complex dispute. She has extraordinary skill in resolving high-stake multi-party commercial disputes, employment, and catastrophic personal injury cases.

"She is a superb settler of cases. She is tenacious, persistent and imaginative."

"In complicated civil cases, she is very impressive."

"Very few judges could settle the cases she can settle because they don't take the time to understand them."

"She is balanced. She goes out of her way to demonstrate to each party that she is not biased toward either party."

- Almanac of the Federal Judiciary

ADR Experience and Qualifications

- Conducted nearly 1,800 settlement conferences as a U.S. Magistrate Judge in virtually every area of civil litigation, including complex commercial, antitrust, securities, civil rights, labor and employment, government, environmental, education, insurance, aviation, intellectual property, maritime, serious personal injury, product liability, medical malpractice, legal malpractice, real estate, construction, consumer, sports and entertainment, class actions, and mass torts
- Served on the Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee for the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania for 10 years, drafting local federal court rules for court-annexed mediation program
- Frequent speaker at Continuing Legal Education programs on settlement negotiation, mediation, and the ADR Act of 1998

Representative Matters

- **Antitrust:** conspiracy claims by Internet bond trader against major brokers and dealers
- **Civil Rights:** high profile case on behalf of severely abused child against private foster care placement agency and government agencies; claim against school district on behalf of special education student raped by other students in classroom supervised by a substitute teacher
- **Class Actions:** ERISA class action by former employees of Reliance Insurance Company; presided over complex discovery disputes in the fen-phen diet drug litigation and successfully mediated disputes between class counsel and trustees of settlement fund; RICO claims by owners of time shares in resort property
- **Commercial:** successfully mediated hundreds of business disputes involving breach of contract, complex accounting and valuation issues, and breach of warranty claims
- **Construction:** claim by general contractor against regional transportation authority for more than \$20 million of cost overruns due to post contract federal requirements for lead paint abatement
- **Employment:** successfully mediated over 500 employment cases involving claims of discrimination, retaliation, harassment, and other employment related contract disputes
- **Environmental:** claims by the USA and state against more than twenty defendants in major environmental superfund case
- **Personal Injury/Aviation:** successfully mediated numerous claims by passengers of Swissair flight 111 which crashed in 1998
- **Product Liability:** claim by food production worker who lost her arm in a meat grinding machine; cases against automobile manufacturers involving death or catastrophic injury
- **Real Estate:** partnership and contract disputes in major real estate development projects
- **Securities and Investor Actions:** numerous individual and class actions involving claims of fraud and cases alleging breach of fiduciary duty by financial advisors and brokers
- **Sports/Entertainment:** copyright and royalty claims by songwriters and artists against record producers and distributors; contract and breach of fiduciary duty claim by heavyweight boxing champion against promoter

Honors, Memberships, and Professional Activities

- Member, Federal Magistrate Judges Association; Third Circuit Director, 1999-2004
- Member, The Forum of Executive Women

- Member, American Inns of Court; President, Temple American Inn of Court, 2002-2003
- Member: National Association of Woman Judges, Federal Bar Association, Montgomery Bar Association, Philadelphia Bar Association, Bucks County Bar Association, Pennsylvania Bar Association, and other professional organizations
- Member of Third Circuit and U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania court committees, including Federal-State Judicial Council, Committee on Bankruptcy and Magistrate Judges, Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee, Court Interpreters Committee, Bench Bar Public Relations and Educational Programs Committee, and Congressional Delegation Committee

Background and Education

- U.S. Magistrate Judge, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of PA, 1994-2005
- Private Law Practice, 1984-1994
- Deputy District Attorney, Bucks County District Attorney's Office, 1981-1984
- Legal Counsel, Pennsylvania Senate Judiciary Committee, 1980-1981
- J.D., Villanova University School of Law, 1979
- B.A., Political Science, *Magna Cum Laude*, La Salle University, 1976