



**Michael E. Ponder** | *judgeponder@gmail.com*

Judge Ponder has been a mediator for Perry Dampf Dispute Solutions since he retired as the Parish Attorney for East Baton Rouge Parish in September of 2005.

Prior to serving as Parish Attorney, Ponder was elected to be a Baton Rouge City Judge in 1978 and then a Nineteenth Judicial District Court Judge and served for fourteen years before retiring. Louisiana District Courts have general jurisdiction and Ponder presided over all types of criminal and civil cases.

After retiring from District Court, he served as the Parish Attorney for East Baton Rouge Parish. This office handled all civil matters for the Parish, including litigation, property acquisitions, labor relations, lobby efforts (local, state, and federal governments), tax enforcement and dispute resolution.

Ponder served as legal advisor to three different Mayors and the twelve members of Parish Council. Additionally, Ponder was appointed to a Special Master Panel, wherein millions of dollars were distributed to hundreds of claimants.

#### **Alternative Dispute Resolution Experience**

- Experienced mediator, arbitrator and/or special master in over 2,500 cases since 1993
- First Circuit Court of Appeals Mediation Program, Director
- Thirty-eight years of experience in Personal Injury (Plaintiff and Defense), Insurance, Professional and Products Liability
- Judge in Baton Rouge City Court and Nineteenth Judicial District Court for fourteen years
- Served as Parish Attorney for East Baton Rouge Parish
- Served as a Special Counsel to the Louisiana State Attorney General
- Served as an Assistant District Attorney for East Baton Rouge Parish

#### **Alternative Dispute Resolution Training**

- Member of Arbitration Forums from 1993-1995
- Received advanced mediation and arbitration training from the Alternative Dispute Resolution Administration, specifically in Stipulation Analysis and Claim File Preparation and Analysis

#### **Professional Licenses**

Admitted to Bar: Louisiana, 1972; U.S. District Court: Eastern, Middle, and Western Districts of Louisiana; U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit

#### **Memberships, Honors, Professional Associations**

Federal Bar Association • American Bar Association • Louisiana State Bar Association • Baton Rouge Bar Association • Louisiana Trial Lawyers Association • City Attorneys Association • Louisiana Judges' Association • District Attorney Association • Professionals in Pretrial Association • Academy of Court Appointed Masters

#### **Education**

Louisiana State University (BA – 1971, JD – 1972)

**Areas of Concentration**

Class Action, Corporate Disputes, Commercial Disputes, Contract (Other Than Consumer, Construction, and Employment), Domestic Disputes, Family Law Issues, Franchise, Health Care, Insurance, Labor Disputes, Lease, Malpractice, Maritime/Jones Act/OCSLA, Personal Injury, Premises Liability, Property Damage, Successions, Toxic Tort, Defective Products, Lemon Law, Products Liability, Rescission of Sales, Warranty Issues, Construction Disputes, Defective Premises, Liens, Warranty Issues, Affirmative Action, Discrimination, Employee Disputes, Retaliation, Unemployment Compensation, Workers' Compensation/LHWCA, Wrongful Discharge