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**Contact** American Arbitration Association

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**Commercial Panel**  
**William F. Welch, Esq.**

**Current Employer-Title** Welch Spell, P.C. - Senior Partner

**Profession** Attorney - Corporate and International Transactions, Arbitration/Mediation, Contracts, Asset and Stock Purchase Agreements, Sale and Distribution of Products/Services, Insurance, Employment, Debtor/Creditor, Shareholder and Intellectual Property Matters

**Work History** Senior Partner, Welch Spell, P.C., 1992-present; Partner/Chair, International Section, Corporate and Commercial Litigation, Neely & Player, 1973-92; Attorney, Georgia Legal Services, 1971-73.

**Experience** Primarily engaged in the above areas of law. 23 years' experience in corporate/contract/international law; plus 10 years' commercial/general litigation. Extensive background in commercial litigation and transactional work; acquisitions, partnership, joint venture, franchise, anti-trust, non-competition, finance, manufacturing, healthcare, sale of equipment, textiles, chemicals, medical products; commercial and insurance (reinsurance, agency, life, health, property and casualty); systems/software disputes; manufacturer/dealership disputes; leases; and Uniform Commercial Code issues.

**Alternative Dispute Resolution Experience** Arbitrator for 17 years. Appointed in approximately 75 commercial arbitration cases since 2001, ten of which were international disputes (ICDR). Appointed as panel chair in 25 cases, sole arbitrator in 45 cases, and party-appointed in 5 cases. Arbitration appointments include the following areas: contract disputes, distribution (40 cases involving product/services disputes and collection), software license/implementation disputes (6 cases), real estate and partnerships, franchise, supplier/distributor terminations, royalties, acquisition agreements, credit card contracts, billing and collecting, stockholder and partnership disputes, telecom contracts/billing and collecting, communication equipment, trucking/transportation, advertising/media disputes, textile, management contracts, healthcare (including 5 cases involving hospitals), doctors' disputes, Internet sales, e-Commerce, employment, sales representative, insurance agency, franchise, professional fee disputes, environmental indemnity, Uniform Commercial Code, and supply contracts. Special hearing officer/master, appointed by Supreme Court of Georgia, 1984. Member of American Arbitration Association Large Complex Case Panel, Olympics Panel (since 1996), e-Commerce Panel (since 2001), and International Panel (since 2000). Member of the Commercial Advisory Panel (1997) and the Commercial Panel Review Committee (1996) for the Atlanta Region. AAA Faculty, Arbitrator Update, 2004.

**Alternative Dispute Resolution Training** Attended AAA Neutrals Conference and satisfied 2004 ACE requirements, Atlanta, 10/04; AAA Commercial Arbitrator II Training: Advanced Case Management Issues, Atlanta, 2/02; faculty, AAA Arbitrator Update 2004, 2003, 2002, 2001; AAA/Georgia Bar Association, ADR Technology Program, 12/01; AAA/Atlanta Bar Association, International Arbitration Program, 10/01; AAA e-Commerce Group Program, New York, 6/01, 12/00; AAA Mediation Program, Atlanta, 3/01; presenter, AAA Commercial Program for Neutrals, Atlanta, 1/00; AAA Commercial Arbitrator Training Workshop, Atlanta, 5/99; AAA/U.S. Olympic Committee, Nagano Olympics Panel Training, 1998; AAA/U.S. Olympic

Committee, Atlanta Olympics Panel Training, 1996; various other ADR training since 1990.

**Professional Licenses** Admitted to the Bar: Georgia; U.S. District Court: Northern and Middle Districts of Georgia (all state and federal courts); U.S. Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit. Registered Neutral, Supreme Court of Georgia Office of Dispute Resolution.

**Professional Associations** State Bar of Georgia (ADR Section; International Law Section); Georgia Arbitrators' Forum (Past President); The Advocates Club; International Association of Insurance Receivers; Georgia Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts (Charter Board Member; Past President); Netherlands American Chamber of Commerce/Netherlands American Foundation (National Advisory Board and Nominating Committee); Social: Capital City Club.

**Education** Boston College (BS-1967); University of Georgia (JD-1971).

**Publications and Speaking Engagements** Co-author, "The Business Tort - Interference with Contractual Relationships or Business Expectations," GEORGIA STATE BAR JOURNAL 66, 1982. SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS: AAA Program - Georgia Arbitration Law Update, Atlanta, 1/05; AAA Program - Discovery in Arbitration, Atlanta, 12/04; faculty, Arbitrator Update, 2004 (Neutrals Conference), 2003, 2002; "Online Dispute Resolution," AAA/State Bar of Georgia Program, December 2001; "International Arbitration - The Decision to Arbitrate," AAA/Atlanta Bar Association Program, October 2001; co-speaker, "AAA Commercial Program for Neutrals," January 2000; speaker/published materials for Mercer University (10 years) and Georgia State University Executive MBA classes.

**Citizenship** United States of America

**Locale** Atlanta, GA

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