



JUDGE LISA M. RAU (Ret.)

30 South 15th Street, 15th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19102; (215) 816-3100
JudgeRau@ResonateMediation.com; website: ResonateMediation.com

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, business disputes and mass torts. Serves as Court-appointed special discovery officer, is a Court-approved mediator for asbestos and other mass torts, and provides neutral case analysis. Developed expertise in online proceedings. Offers online, in-person, and hybrid proceedings.

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 1,000 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 PANELS

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

NADN: Diplomat Member, 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

Court of Common Pleas, Philadelphia: Court-appointed Discovery Master; Neutral for
Mass Tort Cases

ADR TRAINING

NADN, Advanced Mediation Training, Atlanta, Georgia (>20 hours) (2022)

AAA, Multi-Party, Multi-Faceted Dispute Resolution: The Online Experience (>15 hours) (2021)

ADR TRAINING (cont.)

AAA, Arbitration Fundamentals and Best Practices (2021)

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

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

National Judicial College

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

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

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

ABA, IAM, AAA regular trainings & educational conferences in mediation and arbitration (2020-present)

PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Distinguished Fellow, International Academy of Mediators (April 2021-present)

Online Courtroom Project (OCP), Advisory Task Force Member (June 2020-2023) National group of experts developing best practices for online court proceedings, including jury trials, using technology and other innovations.

Philadelphia Bar Association Leadership

Co-Chair, Fee Dispute Committee (2023-present)

Co-Chair, ADR Committee (2023-present)

Civil Section Executive Committee (2018-present)

Facilitator – Debt Collection Court Modernization Task Force (2024)

Civil Section 2019 Bar Star Award

Member, Civil Litigation Section (2005-present)

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

Pennsylvania Bar Association (2020-present)

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

ABA Section of Dispute Resolution (2020-present)

Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas of Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

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; majority of fellows 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; helped create Court mediation program for appeals using volunteer lawyer mediators that significantly reduced number of appeals (2007-2010)

Judicial Education Committee (2001-2015) Co-Chair (2006- 2009); National Center for State Courts Civil Study Review Committee (December 2004-2005); Civil Rules Committee (2003-2019).

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

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

Community Service

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

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

PRESENTATIONS:

“Everything You Wanted to Know About Mediation/Arbitration for Fee Disputes,” Philadelphia Bar Association, Philadelphia, PA, October 24, 2023 (CLE for lawyers).

“Mediation: From Inception to Resolution,” Philadelphia Bar Association, Philadelphia, PA, October 19, 2023 (CLE for lawyers).

“Ten Strategies for Artful Settlement Negotiations,” Philadelphia Bar Association’s Bench Bar Conference, Atlantic City, NJ, September 23, 2023 (CLE for lawyers & CJE for judges).

“Expert Witnesses: A View from the Bench,” Temple Law School, Philadelphia, PA, April 4, 2023 (guest lecturer for law students).

“A View from the Bench: Strategies for Skillfully Navigating Evidentiary Issues,” Winning Strategies Seminar, New Orleans, LA, February 24, 2023 (CLE for lawyers).

“Answering the Question,” Thomas Kline School of Law, Philadelphia, PA, November 15, 2022 (guest lecturer for law students).

“Evidence Tools for the Courtroom,” Federal Public Defender’s Office in Puerto Rico, February 17, 2022 (CLE for lawyers).

“Pre-trial Practice,” Pennsylvania Bar Institute, Philadelphia, PA, April 23, 2021 (Online CLE for lawyers).

“Open Court: Return of In-Person Jury Trials in Philadelphia and Resolving Cases During COVID-19,” Philadelphia, PA, April 22, 2021 (Online CLE for lawyers).

“Entering the New Norm of Virtual Hearings,” Massachusetts Academy of Trial Lawyers Meeting, Zoom, February 19, 2021.

“Mindful Practice of Law,” Villanova Law School, Villanova, PA, January 24, 2021 (mandatory professional development for law students).

“Practical Tips for Judicial and Attorney Trial Planning,” Moderator, NITA and the Online Courtroom Project’s Summit “COVID, the Court, and the Future of the Jury Trial,” Remote Webinar (1800 participants) (November 20, 2020).

“ADR in the Time of COVID,” Moderator, PBI Business Lawyers Institute, Remote Webinar, November 18, 2020 (CLE for lawyers).

“How E-trials are Changing the Practice of Law,” International Legal Technology Association’s Annual Conference, Remote Webinar, August 28, 2020.

“Tips on Conducting Mediation and Arbitration Remotely: The Future of ADR in the Pandemic World and Beyond,” Philadelphia Bar Association’s ADR Committee, Remote Webinar, August 26, 2020 (CLE for lawyers).

“Mindfulness in the Practice of Law,” Guest Speaker for Mindful Lawyering: Techniques for Effective Counseling, Negotiation and Advocacy, Temple Law School, April 7, 2020.

“Mindfulness, an Effective Trial Tool: How to Escape Automatic Reactivity and Obtain Peak Performance at Trial,” Philadelphia Bar Association, Philadelphia, August 28, 2019 (CLE for lawyers).

“Wild World of Jury Selection,” Philadelphia Bar Association, Philadelphia, August 8, 2019 (CLE for lawyers).

“Everything You Need to Know About Pretrial Practice in Philadelphia,” Pennsylvania Bar Institute, Wanamaker Building, Philadelphia, PA, April 30, 2019 (CLE for lawyers).

“Settlement Negotiations,” Pennsylvania Mid-Annual Conference of State Trial Judges, Omni William Penn, Pittsburgh, PA, February 22, 2019 (CJE for judges).

“Mindful Practice of Law,” Villanova Law School, Villanova, PA, February 7, 2019 (mandatory professional development for law students).

“Wild World of Jury Selection,” Philadelphia Bar Association’s Bench Bar Conference, Atlantic City, NJ, October 12, 2018 (CLE for lawyers).

“Medical Malpractice: Current Issues and a View from the Bench,” Pennsylvania Bar Institute, Philadelphia, PA, August 8, 2018 (CLE for lawyers).

“Insight from a Judge: Applying the Pennsylvania and Local Rules of Civil Court Procedure to Your Case” and “Civil Court Judge Pet-Peeves You Need to Know,” NBI, Wyndham Hotel, Philadelphia, PA, April 25, 2018 (CLE for lawyers).

“Choosing Your Audience Wisely: Jury Selection in State and Federal Court,” Pennsylvania Bar Association Civil Litigation Retreat, Skytop Lodge, PA, April 13, 2018 (CLE for lawyers).

“Mindful Meditation and the Practice of Law,” Temple Law School’s Mindfulness in the Law Society, Philadelphia, PA, March 27, 2018.

“Mindful Meditation and the Practice of Law,” Villanova Law School, Villanova, PA, March 1, 2018 (mandatory professional development for third year law students).

“Success with Summary Judgment Motions,” Pennsylvania Bar Institute, Philadelphia, PA, December 14, 2017 (CLE for lawyers).

“What Civil Court Judges Want You to Know,” National Business Institute, Philadelphia, PA, December 1, 2017 (CLE for lawyers).

“Courtroom Strategies for Ruling on Evidence,” Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts, Lafayette Hill, PA, October 5, 2017. (CJE for judges).

“Discovery” and “Major Jury Program,” Civil Practice and Procedure in the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas, Wanamaker Building, Philadelphia, PA, June 21, 2017. (CLE for lawyers).

“Unique Insights from Respected Team Leaders,” The Dispute Resolution Institute’s Annual Personal Injury Potpourri, Convention Center, Philadelphia, PA, April 6, 2017.

“Mindful Meditation and the Practice of Law,” Panel Presentation, Drexel Law School Mindfulness Day, Philadelphia, PA, April 6, 2017.

“Insights from the Philadelphia Civil Court of Common Pleas Judges,” Pennsylvania Bar Institute, Wanamaker Building, Philadelphia, PA, December 2, 2016. (CLE for lawyers).

“View from the Bench, Including Insights on the Economic Loss Rule and Contractual Limitations,” American Conference Institute, Union League, Philadelphia, PA, December 1, 2016. (CLE for lawyers).

“Civil Court Judicial Forum,” National Business Institute, Courtyard Marriott, Philadelphia, PA, October 21, 2016 (CLE for lawyers).

“Mindful Meditation and the Practice of Law,” University of Pennsylvania Law School, Address to Incoming LLM Students, Philadelphia, PA, August 3, 2016.

“The Dos and Don’ts of Civil Motion Practice,” City of Philadelphia Law Department’s Annual CLE, Philadelphia Convention Center, Philadelphia, PA, July 15, 2016 (CLE for lawyers).

“The Judicial Fellowship Program,” Pennsylvania Association of Defense Counsel’s Annual Meeting, North Hills Country Club, North Hills, PA, June 7, 2016 (CLE for lawyers).

“Practical Ways of Increasing your Success at Pretrial & Settlement Conferences,” Personal Injury Practicum, The Dispute Resolution Institute, Philadelphia, PA, October 22, 2015 (CLE for lawyers).

“Oral Argument Fisher v. University of Texas,” (sat on panel with Judge Marjorie Rendell and Justice Michael Eakin), 10th Constitutional Law Conclave, PBI, Philadelphia, PA, October 19, 2015 (CLE for lawyers).

“Judicial Roundtable,” Medical Malpractice Update, PBI, Philadelphia, PA, November 19, 2014 (CLE for lawyers).

“Practical Suggestions and Ethics for Preparing and Arguing Non-Discovery Motions,” Personal Injury Practicum, Philadelphia Convention Center, Philadelphia, PA, November 6, 2014 (CLE for lawyers).

“Motion/Discovery Court Practice – The Good, The Bad and The Ugly,” Philadelphia Bar Association Bench Bar Conference, Atlantic City, NJ, October 18, 2014. (CLE for lawyers).

“View from the Bench: Renowned Federal and State Judges Will Tell You What Works and What Doesn’t in Their Courtrooms”, Obstetric Malpractice Claims, American Conference Institute, June 26, 2014, Union League, Philadelphia, PA.

“Judicial Fellowship Program,” Keynote Speaker of Annual Dinner for the Young Lawyers’ Division of the Philadelphia Bar Association, Rittenhouse Hotel, Philadelphia, PA, February 26, 2013.

“Advanced Evidence,” National Judicial College, Faculty Presenter to Judges from Colorado, Denver, CO, November 8-9, 2012. (CLE for judges).

“Evidence”, General Jurisdiction, National Judicial College, Faculty Presenter to Judges from throughout the United States, Reno, NV, April 30-May 1, 2012. (4-day CLE for judges and credit for judges pursuing master’s degree).

“What’s It Worth?” Pennsylvania Association for Justice, Sofitel Hotel, Philadelphia, PA, March 29, 2012. (CLE for lawyers).

“Civil Gideon,” Panelist, Philadelphia Bar Association Bench Bar Conference, Atlantic City, NJ, October 14, 2011.

“Public Interest Careers in Constitutional Law,” Speaker, Drexel’s American Constitution Society, Drexel Law School, Philadelphia, PA, October 12, 2011.

“Civil Court Judicial Forum,” Faculty Presenter, National Business Institute (CLE for lawyers), Philadelphia, PA, April 15, 2011.

“Challenges, Strategies, and Pitfalls When Litigating Against the Pro Se Litigant,” Moderator & Presenter, Pennsylvania Bar Institute (CLE for lawyers), Philadelphia, PA, April 4, 2011.

Advanced Evidence, National Judicial College, Faculty Presenter to Judges from throughout the United States, San Francisco, May 23-27, 2010. (4-day CLE for judges and credit for judges pursuing master’s degree in judicial studies).

“Managing the Complicated Case,” Moderator, American College of Business Court Judges Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, November 10, 2009

“Civil Court Judicial Forum,” Faculty Presenter, National Business Institute (CLE for lawyers), Philadelphia, PA, September 24, 2009.

“Landlord Tenant Mediation Program,” Faculty Presenter, Pennsylvania Bar Institute, Philadelphia, PA, September 21, 2009.

Advanced Evidence, National Judicial College, Faculty Presenter to Judges from throughout the United States, Orlando, FL, February 15-19, 2009. (4-day CLE for judges and credit for judges pursuing master’s degree in judicial studies).

“View from the Bench,” Philadelphia Bar Association Bench Bar Conference, Atlantic City, NJ, September 20, 2008. (CLE for lawyers).

“Civility in the Courtroom,” Philadelphia Bar Association’s Bench Bar Conference, Atlantic City, New Jersey. October 2013. (CLE for lawyers).

“What’s It Worth?,” Pennsylvania Association for Justice, Sofitel Hotel, Philadelphia, PA, March 14, 2008. (CLE for lawyers).

“Civility in the Courtroom and Beyond,” Philadelphia Bar Association State Civil Litigation & Young Lawyers Division CLE, Philadelphia, PA, November 28, 2007. (CLE for lawyers).

“Women in the Law,” Workshop Panel Presentation, Drexel University College of Law, Philadelphia, PA, October 15, 2007.

Advanced Evidence, National Judicial College, Faculty Presenter to Judges from throughout the United States, Reno, Nevada, October 1-4, 2007. (4-day CLE for judges and credit for judges pursuing master’s degree in judicial studies).

“Judicial Perspectives on Handling the Dog Bite Case”, Pennsylvania Bar Institute, Philadelphia, PA, March 16 & April 12, 2007. (CLE for lawyers)

“Judge’s Perspective on the Presentation of Evidence in 1311.1 Cases,” Philadelphia Bar Association’s Compulsory Arbitration Committee, Philadelphia, PA, March 13, 2007.

“Rule 1311 Cases—A Survivor’s Guide for the Bench,” Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas Judicial Education Presentation for Civil Judges, Philadelphia, PA, February 21, 2007.

“Arbitration Practice in Philadelphia County: A Survivor’s Guide”, Pennsylvania Bar Institute, Philadelphia, PA, December 7, 2006. (CLE for lawyers)

“The American Jury System”, WURD Radio talk show for Jury Appreciation Day, hosted by Eleanor Dezzi, Philadelphia, PA, May 4, 2006.

“Taking the Heat – The First Women Firefighters of New York City”, Panel Discussion at ITVS Community Cinema Film Screening of “Taking the Heat”, Philadelphia Community College, Philadelphia, PA March 21, 2006.

“Bench Trials,” Trial by Judge, The Lawyers’ Club of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA, July 28, 2005. (CLE for lawyers)

“Different Perspectives on Valuing the Case-Judicial Perspective”, What’s It Worth? Conference, Philadelphia Trial Lawyers Association, Philadelphia, PA, December 17, 2004. (CLE for lawyers)

“Legal Obligations, Reasonable Accommodations and Available Court Resources for Clients who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing,” Philadelphia Bar Association Bench Bar Conference, Atlantic City, NJ, November 5, 2004. (CLE for lawyers)

“Due Process Under the United States Constitution” and “Diversity Jurisdiction in the United States”, International Seminar on Due Procedures and Litigation Systems, National Judicial College of China, Urumqi, Xinjiang Province, China, August 22-24, 2004.