

THE LAW OFFICE OF
H. CASE ELLIS

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PRACTICE DESCRIPTION

For thirty years my practice focused on civil litigation primarily involving business, premises, vehicle, product, professional liability and declaratory judgment actions to construe insurance coverage. I now concentrate my practice in arbitrating and mediating civil cases both privately and as a court appointed mediator.

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

H. CASE ELLIS, born Middletown, Ohio, August 14, 1950; admitted to Illinois and U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois 1976, admitted to Federal Trial Bar 1982. **Education:** Purdue University (B.S., 1972-Psychology); Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago-Kent College of Law (J.D., with honors, 1976). **Law Clerk** to Hon. Albert Hallett (Second Appellate District, Ill) 1976-1977; **Associate/Officer**, Pretzel Stouffer Nolan & Rooney, 1977-1984; **Owner**, Law Office of H. Case Ellis 1984-present; **Member**, Panel of Arbitrators and Panel of Mediators, American Arbitration Association. **Appointed: Arbitrator**, Manville Personal Injury Settlement Trust, 1989; **Mediator**, AWI Asbestos Personal Injury Settlement Trust, 2009; **Member:** McHenry County, Lake County, Winnebago County, and Illinois State Bar Associations. **Co-Chairman** of Tort Law Section Counsel, Illinois State Bar Association (1996-1997) ISBA Alternative Dispute Resolution Section Council (2004-present, **chair** 2012-2013); **Board of Governors, ILLINOIS STATE BAR ASSOCIATION** (2001-2007); **Board of Directors, INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF DISPUTE RESOLUTION** (2003-present, **President**-2008-present); **Certified State Court Mediator**, 22nd Judicial Circuit (1997), 19th Judicial Circuit (1997), 17th Judicial Circuit (2002); Cook County Circuit Court (2004) Cook County Chancery Court (2007); **Certified Federal Civil Mediator**, US District Court, Northern District of Illinois (2002); MARTINDALE-HUBBEL **AV** (highest possible rating); **Awarded:** Center for Analysis of Alternative Dispute Resolution System "Service to Community Award," 2002 for contribution to court annexed mediation programs. **Chaired** Committee to establish major case mediation program and draft and approve mediation rules for 19th Judicial Circuit and for 22nd Judicial Circuit. **Awarded:** "Distinguished Service Award" by the McHenry County Bar Association, for volunteer mediation activities, 2004; **Instructor:** "Conflict Resolution" - North Central College, Naperville, Ill (Graduate Studies, 2003-2006). **Appointed** by Illinois Supreme Court to Committee on Character and Fitness 2007-2014. **Appointed** mediator for the USATF (USA Track and Field) 2011-present. **Appointed** Independent Arbitrator by the Board of Directors of the Illinois Workers Compensation Commission (2011-present).

ADR EXPERIENCE

Proposed and implemented a pilot program staffed by local bar to mediate pro-se small claims disputes in McHenry County to facilitate quicker disposition of claims for pro-se parties and shorten pro-se trial calendar. Trained all volunteer mediators, drafted proposed rules and forms. This program is now twelve years old and has been the model for Small Claims Mediation Programs in a number of other jurisdictions which I have helped set up. As a result of that experience, have been invited to lecture and meet with Court personnel in Manchester UK, Edinburg UK and Belfast UK.

Was one of the original **mediators** in the Court annexed mediation program for the 22nd and 19th Judicial Circuits. In addition, I am certified in the 17th Circuit (State Court) and on original panel of mediators for the Civil Mediation program in the Federal District Court and the Cook County Circuit Court both for Civil and Chancery cases. To date have mediated more than 2500 court cases.

Have been active **arbitrator** (primarily uninsured/underinsured motorist claims) privately and for AAA since 1978 and have been served as arbitrator (for claimants, insurance companies, and as neutral) in more than 550 cases.

In summer of 2011 was appointed by the Board of the Illinois Workers Compensation Commission as one of four "independent" arbitrators statewide to hear all worker's compensation claims filed by employees of the Illinois Workers Compensation Commission.

As a founding Board member (President 2008-present) of the International Academy of Dispute Resolution (See www.inadr.org), a not-for profit organization which trains mediators and conducts mediation tournaments for students world wide, I have participated in conducting training and competition at more than 25 tournaments in Chicago, Boston, Des Moines, London, Liverpool, Glasgow, Bhopal, India and Dubai, UAE.

Co-instructor of 40 hour training course for mediators outside the USA with the head of International Training for the UK's largest ADR provider. We provide a "co-badge" certificate recognized in the UK and most jurisdictions in the US requiring a 40 hour training program

LITIGATION EXPERIENCE

Tried (as defense counsel) to verdict approximately three dozen jury cases including cases involving Medical Negligence, Legal Negligence, Product Liability, Auto accidents, School Bus accidents, fraud and premises liability. Jury cases tried in Cook, Lake, McHenry, Boone, Kane and Winnebago Counties and Federal Court in Chicago and Rockford. Tried a number of bench trials primarily involving declaratory judgment actions and commercial disputes. Last ten years of active litigation practice concentrated on defense of Lawyer liability (malpractice) cases – represented defendants in more than 95 legal malpractice lawsuits.

Lectured at numerous seminars (ISBA, ITLA, McHenry County Bar Association, Lake County Bar Association) on various litigation and ADR matters.

NON-LEGAL

All-State Illinois High School Track and Field (1968), Captain and school record holder on Purdue's Track team (1968-72). First Undergraduate published in national medical journal (New England Journal of Personality – Sept 1973). Married to Sally in 1972, two sons and five grandchildren. Appointed by Mayor of Cary, IL to Serve as Police Commissioner (1996-2012). Member of the Board of Directors for the Illinois Youth Service Bureau for six years. President of Cary Youth Baseball Association (1992-93)

Frequent lecturer and author of articles regarding ADR and Juries.

For more information, please see

www.wemediate.info