



Karen Klein

United States Magistrate Judge, Retired
Karen Klein Mediation, LLC
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Experience:

- Served as U.S. Magistrate Judge in the U.S. District Court, District of North Dakota for 30 years, from January 1985 until January 2015.
- Appointed as Chief Magistrate Judge in 1993.
- Began legal career as law clerk to Chief U.S. District Judge Paul Benson in Fargo, ND from 1977-1979.
- Practiced law in Fargo from 1979-1985.
- Established mediation as a part of the federal district court's civil case management in 1985 and became one of the first judges/lawyers in North Dakota to mediate civil disputes.
- Successfully mediated thousands of legal disputes as a judge.
- In addition to judicial mediation, served as trial judge and pretrial case manager.
- Well known regionally, nationally and internationally as a settlement expert.
- Mediation experience covers a wide range of cases, including:
Contracts/business disputes, personal injury, product liability, professional malpractice, insurance coverage, oil and gas leases/royalties, employment/labor, intellectual property, environmental/CERCLA, employment benefits/ERISA, civil rights, whistleblower/qui tam actions and class actions.

Mediation teaching:

- Lead faculty member for Federal Judicial Center Mediation Skills Workshop for Federal Judges (annually 1999-2015).
- Faculty member for settlement segment of Federal Judicial Center Orientation Programs for Newly Appointed Magistrate Judges (3 times annually 1998-2015).
- Presenter at American Bar Association Section of Dispute Resolution Annual Conference (2011).
- Faculty for mediation skills programs for Judges and lawyers in Poland (Eastern EU Judges), Jordan, United Arab Emirates, India and Malaysia (2003-2010).
- Faculty at seminars on mediation skills for North Dakota State Judges and Virginia State Judges (1995-2005).
- Annual guest lecturer at University of North Dakota School of Law on representing clients in settlement (approx. 2000-2014).

Published Articles on Mediation:

- Judicial Mediation of Cases Assigned to the Judge for Trial, Dispute Resolution Magazine, American Bar Association Section of Dispute Resolution, Vol. 17, No. 3 (Spring 2011).
- Representing Clients in Mediation: A Twenty-Question Preparation Guide for Lawyers, 84 N.D. Law Review 877 (2008).
- A Judicial Mediator's Perspective: The Impact of Gender on Dispute Resolution: Mediation as a Different Voice, 81 N.D. Law Review 771 (2005).

Recent Honors:

- Federal Magistrate Judges Association Founders Award (2014).
- University of North Dakota Law Women's Caucus Professionalism Award (2014).

Professional Activities:

- Former Chair, State Bar Association of North Dakota Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee
- Former President, Federal Magistrate Judges Association
- Former Board Member, Federal Judicial Center (appointed by Chief Justice, U.S. Supreme Court)
- Former Chair, Federal Judicial Center Advisory Committee on Magistrate Judge Education (appointed by Chief Justice, U.S. Supreme Court)
- Former Member, U.S. Judicial Conference Committee on Information and Technology (appointed by Chief Justice, U.S. Supreme Court)
- Former Member, U.S. Judicial Conference Committee on Administration of the Magistrate Judges System (appointed by Chief Justice, U.S. Supreme Court)
- Former Chair, Civil Justice Reform Panel, U.S. District Court, District of North Dakota

- Former President, Ronald N. Davies Inn of Court
- Former Member, North Dakota Judiciary Standards Committee (appointed by Chief Justice, N.D. Supreme Court)