

## Alternative Dispute Resolution

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The Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) practice group at Pullman & Comley offers mediation and arbitration services in complex civil matters in state and federal court, including commercial, construction, employment, environmental, health care, insurance, personal injury and probate disputes. In addition, the ADR practice offers services in all family and matrimonial matters including financial, custody and parenting disputes.

In recent years, the number of cases referred to ADR processes has grown exponentially, as parties to conflicts seek to reach mutually agreeable settlements while avoiding expensive, public and time-consuming administrative and court proceedings. The two most common methods of ADR are mediation and arbitration.

Pullman & Comley's ADR practice is led by Retired Judge Robert L. Holzberg, who served as a Connecticut Superior Court judge for more than 20 years before retiring from the bench in September, 2012. While on the bench he served as the presiding judge for civil matters in the Middlesex, New Britain and Waterbury judicial districts, and most recently served as the Administrative Judge and Presiding Judge-Civil for Middlesex Judicial District. During his career, he earned a reputation for his skill in crafting settlements in some of Connecticut's highest profile and complex cases and became one of the state's most sought-after mediators.

Anne C. Dranginis, Retired Connecticut Appellate Court Judge, joined the Firm as a member in fall 2016. She retired in January 2006 as an Associate Judge of the Connecticut Appellate Court after serving for more than 21 years on the Superior and Appellate Court bench. As a member in the Family Law Practice, Judge Dranginis focuses on litigation matters involving matrimonial law, corporate compliance and governance, trial strategy, arbitration and mediation, with a particular focus in appellate mediation.

Michael E. Riley, Retired Connecticut Superior Court Judge, also joined the Firm in May, 2017 after 13 years of service as a Superior Court Judge. As a member of the bench, he served as the Administrative Judge and as Presiding Judge for civil matters in the Judicial District of Windham and most recently as the mediation judge in the Hartford Judicial District Mediation Center. Retired Judge Riley serves as a mediator and arbitrator in state and federal court civil matters.

Other members of the ADR practice include American Arbitration Association (AAA)-qualified attorneys Andrew C. Glassman, a member of the Commercial Arbitration Panel and the Employment Arbitration Panel with 35 years of corporate and commercial transactional experience, and James T. (Tim) Shearin, who handles mediations and arbitrations of business disputes. Tim is a seasoned litigator who has prosecuted and defended corporate clients in disputes involving breach of fiduciary duty claims; challenged mergers and acquisitions; contract breaches; non-compete, non-solicitation and non-poach agreements; intellectual property, and unfair competition assertions.

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Law firms and individual practitioners have called on David Atkins, chair of the firm's Professional Liability practice, to mediate lawyer-to-lawyer disputes over lawyer departures and provisions in firm partnership agreements, or under partnership law, governing compensation, profit distribution and the allocation of recovered contingency fees. In addition, attorney Fred Klein, who has more than 30 years of experience in handling energy, water and utility matters, has been involved in numerous arbitrations and settlements and is an AAA-trained mediator with experience in large complex multi-party mediations.

In 2020, Pullman & Comley was named the top ADR overall provider in in ALM's Best of New England Survey. The firm's ADR Practice was also ranked by *Best Lawyers* "2021 Best Law Firms" in the highest tier of arbitration practices in the Hartford metropolitan area.