



MONTHLY MEDIATOR SPOTLIGHT

December 2022

One of the distinguishing features of the WDNY Plan for Alternative Dispute Resolution (“ADR Plan”) is the autonomy of the parties throughout the mediation process, including the selection of a Mediator. Under Section 5.5 of the ADR Plan, the parties are directed to confer and select an impartial neutral (Mediator) together, either from the Court’s Mediator Panels (Buffalo and Rochester) or an independent Mediator. To familiarize members of this bar with the Mediators available to them on the Court’s Mediator Panels, each month two Mediators will be selected by the Court at random (one from each Panel) and featured in this publication.

The United States District Court for the Western District of New York Monthly Mediator Spotlight (December 2022)

Jennifer L. Friedman, Esq.

Schröder, Joseph & Associates, LLP
394 Franklin Street, 2nd Floor
Buffalo, New York 14202
(716) 601-9045 Cell (preferred)
(716) 881-4900 Phone
(716) 881-4909 Fax
jfriedman@sjalegal.com



Member of WDNY Mediator Panel Since: 2019

Hourly Mediation/Preparation Rates: \$300 (M) \$275 (P)

Nature of Practice/Areas of Specialization: Intellectual Property; Employment; Corporate/Commercial; Construction

Background: Born, raised and live in Lancaster, New York (with the exception of my years in Ithaca for law school). I am married with two children and we have traveled extensively throughout the country and world.

Education: Cornell Law School, 1997 cum laude; SUNY at Buffalo, 1994, summa cum laude

Work History: Schröder, Joseph & Associates, LLP 2016-present; McGee & Gelman 1997-2016

Areas of Practice: I am an experienced attorney with broad-based knowledge of many areas of law especially those relating to business entities. I have participated in numerous commercial, intellectual property and labor/employment mediations, arbitrations, settlement negotiations and litigation involving multimillion dollar claims and I provide mediation/alternative dispute resolution services. My practice is equally divided between plaintiff and defendant side work. I have been first and second chair in federal court litigation involving patent infringement, trademark, trade secret and breach of contract disputes including in New York, Illinois, Kentucky, Florida, Wyoming and Michigan. I have actively litigated commercial cases involving, among other things, breach of contract, corporate dissolution, trade secrets, minority shareholder issues, breach of covenants not to compete, breach of confidentiality agreements and breach of fiduciary duty. I have extensive experience litigating patent and trademark disputes in various federal courts around the country. I have authored numerous appellate briefs and have argued in the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. I represent employers on employment discrimination matters including age, sex, race, national origin and disability claims.

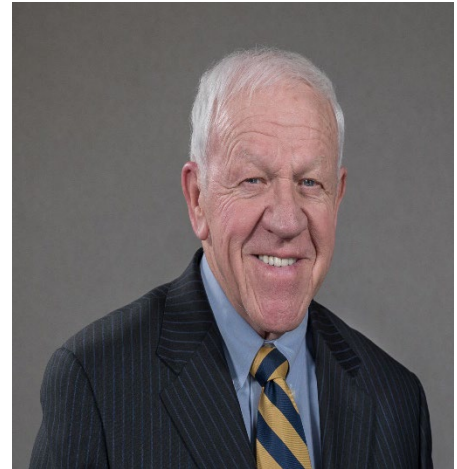
Professional Achievements: Recognized in Intellectual Property by Super Lawyers. Obtained a successful jury verdict in a breach of contract action in the first jury trial verdict in the Supreme Court Erie County Commercial Division. Professional memberships: Western District of New York Local Rules Committee and Local Patent Rules Committee; Erie County Bar Association ADR, Intellectual Property, and Labor Law Committees.

Personal Achievements: Garden Walk Buffalo Niagara, Inc. - Member of Board of Directors - 2015-2018; Girl Scout Green Angel Volunteer Award – 2016; Girl Scout Leader - 2003-2017; Girl Scout Gold Award Mentor - 2014-present; Lancaster Garden Club, 2005-present, Past President - 2007-2009, Past Vice President - 2009-2011; Paws for Love Pet Therapy Volunteer - 2015-present; SPCA of Erie County, Foster Parent - 2006-present.

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Michael R. Wolford, Esq.

Bond Schoeneck & King
350 Linden Oaks, Suite 110
Rochester, NY 14625
(585) 362-4719
mwolford@bsk.com



Member of WDNY Mediator Panel Since: 2019

Hourly Mediation/Preparation Rates: \$275 (M) \$250 (P)

Nature of Practice/Areas of Specialization: Commercial; Civil Rights; Employment; Tort – Personal Injury; Civil Litigation

Background: Born in Rochester, New York. Attended McQuaid Jesuit High School. Presently resides in Victor, New York, having resided in Fairport, New York for approximately 25 years.

Education: John Carroll University, B.S. 1963; University at Buffalo School of Management, M.B.A. 1965; University at Buffalo School of Law, J.D., 1968

Work History: Assistant U.S. Attorney in charge of the Rochester Office from 1969 – 1972; Nixon, Hargrave, Devans & Doyle 1972 – 1993, both as an associate and partner. 1993-2006 established the predecessor firm of Michael R. Wolford & Associates; 2007-2020 The Wolford Law Firm; 2020- Present Bond, Schoeneck, & King, PLLC.

Admitted to practice in the New York State Courts, U.S. Supreme Court, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and the U.S. District Courts in New York for the Southern, Northern and Western Districts of New York.

Professional Achievements: President of the Monroe County Bar Association for the 2004 - 2005 term; Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and past Chair of the College's Upstate New York Committee; Past President of the Rochester Chapter of the American Board of Trial Lawyers; and Past Chairman of the Monroe County Board of Ethics; Martindale-Hubbell AV rating.

Personal Achievements: The Daily Record Nathaniel Award – 1997; U.S. District Court Special Service Award for representing a pro bono client in 2000; Monroe County Bar Association Adolph J. Rodenbeck Award – 2001; University at Buffalo Law School Distinguished Alumnus Award – 2003; Rochester Black Bar Association Award for Commitment to Diversity – 2005; University of Buffalo Law School Students of Color Trail Blazer Award – 2009; Monroe County Bar Association Humanitarian Award – 2014; Bridge Building Award, Rochester Black Bar Association – 2018; Thurgood Marshall Award from the Federal Bar Council of the Second Circuit – 2018. He has been listed in Best Lawyers in America for “Bet-The-Company Litigation”, as well as Personal Injury Litigation, Commercial Litigation, Labor and Employment Litigation, Environmental Litigation and Municipal Litigation and Super Lawyers.