



MONTHLY MEDIATOR SPOTLIGHT

March 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 (March 2022)

Paul L. Leclair, Esq.

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Member of WDNY Mediator Panel Since: 2012

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

Nature of Practice/Areas of Specialization: Commercial; Tort; Construction

Background: Born: Plainfield, NJ; Raised: Mountaintop, PA; living in Rochester NY since 1984.

Education: JD, Georgetown University Law Center, 1987; BA, *magna cum laude*, University of Scranton, 1984.

Work History: Founding partner of Adams Leclair LLP and its predecessor where he has practiced since 2007. Previously, a partner at Wolford & Leclair LLP with which he had been associated since 1993. Began his career as an associate in the litigation practice group at Nixon, Hargrave, Devans & Doyle and practiced there from 1987 to 1991. From 1991 to 1993, he managed litigation at the Rochester Telephone Company.

Areas of Practice: Litigation practice focused in commercial, construction, partnership, employment, and personal injury in state, federal and bankruptcy courts. Considerable experience conducting mediations and arbitrations in commercial, construction, civil rights, personal injury, and class actions. Admitted to practice in New York State; US Supreme Court, US Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit; US District Courts, all districts of New York; and, US Bankruptcy Courts, WDNY and SDNY.

Professional Achievements: Named “The Best Lawyers in America” and a “Super Lawyer” for Bet-the-Company and Commercial Litigation. AV Preeminent rated by Martindale-Hubbell.

In 2016, presented the Monroe County Bar Foundation’s Humanitarian Award for launching the Bar’s SOLACE program, designed to assist legal professionals who suffer a loss or have a particular need because of a sudden catastrophic event. Recognized with the 2015 United States District Court WDNY Pro Bono Award for vigorous representation in a federal court civil rights case, the second time the U.S. District Court WDNY honored Mr. Leclair with the award. Recognized as a “Leader in Law” in 2013 by The Daily Record. Has been invited regularly to Rochester’s sister-city, Novgorod, Russia, to address Russian judges and lawyers on advocacy skills to promote the rule of law through the Russian American Rule of Law Consortium. Former Trustee of the Monroe County Bar Association and Past-President of the Rochester Inns of Court.

Personal Achievements: Board Member, Baden Street Settlement, Rochester, NY. Completed the Chicago Marathon and the Marine Corps Marathon in Washington, D.C. Raised 4 children with his wife of more than 30 years, Rebecca. Waiting for grandchildren.