



HON. PETER B. SKELOS (Ret.)

Associate Justice, Appellate Division, 2nd Dept., Nassau

Honorable Peter B. Skelos' illustrious career includes 11 years spent as an Associate Justice of the Appellate Division of the New York State Supreme Court, Second Judicial Department where he served until his retirement in 2015. Judge Skelos' judicial career began in 1995 when he was elected to the District Court, Nassau County. Four years later, he was elected as Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, 10th Judicial District and in 2003 he was appointed Associate Justice of the Appellate Term of the Supreme Court 9th and 10th Judicial Districts. The following year, he was appointed by Governor George Pataki as an Additional Justice to one of the busiest appellate courts in the United States: the Appellate Division, Second Judicial Department. Thereafter, Governors Eliot Spitzer and Andrew Cuomo, respectively, appointed and reappointed Hon. Skelos as Associate Justice of the Appellate Division and also as a member of the Constitutional Court. He was rated "Highly Qualified" by the New York State Independent Judicial Election Qualification Commission. Throughout his many years on the bench, he was known for having a keen legal intellect with compassion for those who appeared before him. Judge Skelos has a reputation for treating others in a fair and respectful manner and for arriving at well-reasoned and legally sound decisions in cases he has heard.



Prior to joining the bench, Judge Skelos was a Deputy Nassau County Attorney. Thereafter, he was engaged in private practice where he handled a wide variety of cases including commercial civil litigation, civil rights, medical malpractice and personal injury in state and federal courts for both plaintiffs and defendants.

His experience on the bench, combined with the time spent in private practice, has given him a broad range of knowledge in numerous areas of the law including construction litigation, professional liability and insurance coverage disputes. Honorable Skelos' ability to approach matters fairly and in an unbiased manner combined with his even temperament and incisive questioning make him extremely well-suited to the role of arbitrator/mediator and an excellent choice for both sides of the bar. Further, as a former appellate judge, he has the ability to fairly and expertly identify and resolve disputed questions of law.

For the second year in a row, Judge Skelos was voted a Top Ten Neutral in the New York Law Journal Annual Reader Rankings Survey (2016, 2017). Further, he was named a National Law Journal *2017 Alternative Dispute Resolution Champion*, as part of a select group of only 37 nationwide and selected a *2017 New York Super Lawyer* by New York Super Lawyer Magazine. He has received numerous awards for his exemplary public service and as a career-long member of the Nassau County Bar Association, he was presented with the President's Award for his leadership on behalf of the Lawyers Assistance Program. He also served three terms as the administrative chair of the We Care Fund Advisory Board of the Bar Association of Nassau County where he continues to be an active member.

AREAS OF EXPERIENCE

- Civil rights (State and Federal)
- Commercial
- Construction
- Employment
- Insurance Coverage
- Labor Law
- Medical Malpractice
- Personal Injury
- Professional Liability

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

Significant Opinions Authored by Justice Skelos as a Member of the Appellate Division Include:

Majority Opinions:

- People v. Brown, 122 AD3d 133, lv denied 24 NY3d 1042
- Braverman v. Bendiner & Schlesinger, Inc., 121 AD3d 353, lv denied 24 NY3d 913
- W. Park Associates, Inc. v. Everest Nat. Ins. Co., 113 AD3d 38 [2013]
- Cassie v. Cassie, 109 AD3d 337 [2013]
- People v. Dunbar, 104 AD3d 198 [2013], aff'd 24 NY3d cert. denied 135 S. Ct. 2052
- Brown v. Blumenfeld, 103 AD3d 45 [2012]
- William J. Jenack Estate Appraisers and Auctioneers, Inc. v. Rabizadeh, 99 AD3d 270 [2012], rev'd 952 NYS2d 197 [2013]
- People v. Picca, 97 AD3d 170 [2012]
- Matter of Giovanni S., 89 AD3d 252 [2011]
- People v. Clay, 88 AD3d 14 [2011]
- Caldwell v. Cablevision Systems Corp., 86 AD3d 46 [2011], aff'd 20 NY3d 365 [2013]
- Shaw v. Coach, 82 AD3d 98 [2011]
- Mixon v. TBV, Inc., 76 AD3d 144 [2010]
- Barkan v. Roslyn Union Free School Dist., 67 AD3d 61 [2009]
- Cotty v. Town of Southampton, 64 AD3d 251 [2009]
- People v. Diaz, 62 AD3d 157 [2009], aff'd 15 NY3d 40 [2010]
- Matter of Poldrugovaz, 50 AD3d 117 [2008]
- People v. Newton, 48 AD3d 115 [2007]
- People v. Elysee, 49 AD3d 33 [2007], aff'd 12 NY3d 100 [2009]
- Gross v. Gross, 36 AD3d 318 [2006]
- O'Brien v. Spitzer, 24 AD3d 9 [2005], rev'd 7 NY3d 239 [2006]

Dissenting Opinions:

- Matter of Velasquez, 130 AD3d 1045 [concurring in part and dissenting in part]
- People v. Palencia, 130 AD3d 1072
- Thaw v. North Shore University Hosp. 129 AD3d 937
- Matter of Marvin P. v. Rice, 120 AD3d 160
- Wagner v. Wody, 98 AD3d 965 [2012]
- People v. Freeman, 98 AD3d 682 [2012]
- Dupree v. Giugliano, 87 AD3d 975 [2011], aff'd as modified 20 NY3d 921 [2012]
- Love v. Rockwell's Intern. Enterprises, LLC, 83 AD3d 914 [2011]
- Barbieri v. Vokoun, 72 AD3d 853 [2010]
- Yelder v. Walters, 64 AD3d 762 [2009]
- Carpenter-Siracusa v. Siracusa, 34 AD3d 611 [2006]
- Cruz v. New York City Transit Authority, 31 AD3d 688 [2006], aff'd 8 NY3d 825
- Small v. Coney Is. Site 4A-1 Houses, Inc., 28 AD3d 741 [2006]
- TPZ Corp. v. Dabbs, 25 AD3d 787 [2006][concurring in part and dissenting in part]
- Narayanan v. City of New York, 21 AD3d 533 [2005]

Concurring Opinions:

- Adam K. v. Iverson, 110 AD3d 168 [2013]
- Palladino v. Lindenhurst Union Free School Dist., 84 AD3d 1194 [2011]
- Matter of Marie H., 25 AD3d 704 [2006]

JUDICIAL EXPERIENCE

- Associate Justice, Appellate Division, New York State Supreme Court, Second Judicial Department (2004 – 2015)
 - ⦿ Member of the Constitutional Court (2007 – 2015)
 - ⦿ Appointed by Governor George Pataki Additional Justice (2004)
 - ⦿ Appointed by Governor Elliot Spitzer as Associate Justice (2007)
 - ⦿ Reappointed by Governor Andrew Cuomo (2012)
- Justice of the New York Supreme Court, 10th Judicial District (1998 – 2012)
- Associate Justice, Appellate Term of the New York State Supreme Court, 9th & 10th Judicial Districts (2003-2004)
- Judge, New York State District Court, Nassau County (1995-1998)

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

- Partner, Forchelli, Curto, Deegan, Schwartz, Mineo & Terrana, LLP (2015 – present)
- Partner, Liotti & Skelos (1987 – 1994)
- Associate, Hayt, Hayt & Landau (1986)
- Senior Deputy, Nassau County Attorney (1981 – 1985)

- Associate Attorney, Law Office of Frederick J. Magovern

PROFESSIONAL LICENSES

- United States Supreme Court (1986)
- United States District Court, Southern District of New York (1984)
- United States District Court, Eastern District of New York (1981)
- New York State, Second Judicial Department (1981)
- Florida Bar (1981)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS and ASSOCIATIONS

- Bar Association of Nassau County
- Member, New York State Commission on Statewide Attorney Discipline (2015 – Present)
- Member, New York State Advisory Committee on Attorney Admissions (2012 – 2015)
- Board of Directors, Bar Association of Nassau County (elected 2015)
- Member, Criminal Courts Bar Association of Nassau County (2011 – Present)
- Member, Nassau County Women’s Bar Association (2011 – Present)
- Administrative Chair, We Care Advisory Board (2009 – 2012)
- Chair, Judicial Hearing Officer Selection Advisory Committee, 2nd Judicial Dept. 10th Judicial District (2007 – Present)
- Member, Hellenic Lawyers Association of New York (1995 – Present)
- President, Nassau County District’s Court Judges Association
- Vice President, New York State District Court Judges Association
- Nassau County Planning Commission, Commissioner, review and vote on zoning and subdivision applications before commission (1992 – 1994)
- Member, Bar Association of the County of Nassau (1981 – Present)
- Member, Florida Bar, (1981 – Present)
- Member, Long Beach Lawyers Association

LECTURES and WRITINGS

- Speaker/Panel Member, “Gender Diversity in Arbitration and Mediation Selection: If Not Now, When? Achieving Equality for Women Attorneys in the Courtroom and in ADR”, presented to the Nassau County Women’s Bar Association, 2017
- Speaker, “Reasonable Accommodation in the Workplace Under the ADA /Recent Trends and Practical Tips When Dealing with Restrictive Covenants and Trade Secrets”, presented to Long Island Chapter of LERA (Labor and Employment Relations Association), 2017
- Co-author, The Digital Footprint After Death: Who Wears the Shoes? *The New York Law Journal Trusts and Estates Special Report*, 2017
- Author, Preparation for Oral Argument of Your Appeal, *New York Law Journal Appellate Practice Special Report*, 2017
- Speaker/Panel Member, “Best Practices for Mediating Construction Defect Claims”, CLE presented by NAM / *The New York Law Journal*, 2017
- Speaker, “Matrimonial Alternative Dispute Resolution”, Nassau County Bar Association (NCBA) Joint ADR and Matrimonial Law Committees Meeting, 2017

- Speaker/Panel Member, “Best Practices for Mediation and Settlement”, New York State Trial Lawyers Institute (NYSTLI), 2017
- Speaker/Panel Member, “The Art of Mediation”, The Riverstone Group, 2017
- Speaker/Panel Member, “Motion Practice in the Appellate Division and an Overview of Disciplinary Process”, sponsored by the Nassau Lawyers' Association of Long Island, 2017
- Speaker/Panel Member, “Reasonable Accommodation in the Workplace Under the ADA / Recent Trends and Practical Tips When Dealing with Restrictive Covenants and Trade Secrets”, presented to Epstein, Becker & Green, 2016
- Speaker/Panel Member, “Mediating Construction Defect Claims”, presented to Forchelli, Curto, Deegan, Schwartz, Mineo & Terrana LLP, 2016
- Speaker/Panel Member, “Alternative Dispute Resolution: A Guide to Mediation and Arbitration”, 2016
- Co-Author, Mediation and Arbitration: Alternatives to Litigation of Matrimonial Matters, *New York Law Journal Matrimonial Law Special Report*, 2016
- Speaker/Panel Member, “Mediation and Arbitration: Best Practices and Tips”, sponsored by the Queens County Bar Association, 2016
- Editor, Two volume practice guide *Civil Trials in New York*
- Author, “Evolution of the Labor Law: A View from the Bench” (Chapter 7), *Construction Site Personal Injury Litigation, 2d ed.*, Thomas F. Segalla, Editor-in-Chief

HONORS and AWARDS

- New York Super Lawyer, 2017
- New York Law Journal Reader Rankings Survey 2017, Top Ten - Best Individual Arbitrator Category
- New York Law Journal Reader Rankings Survey 2016, Top Ten - Best Individual Mediator Category
- National Law Journal, *2017 Alternative Dispute Resolution Champion*
- Bar Association of Nassau County, President's Award 2015
- Criminal Courts Bar Association of Nassau County, Norman F. Lent Memorial Award
- Jewish Lawyers Assn of Nassau County, Neil T. Shayne Distinguished Service Award
- Italian Heritage Club of Nassau County, Outstanding Jurist Award
- Fordham Law Alumni Assn, Nassau-Suffolk Chapter, Distinguished Alumnus Award
- Fraternal Order of Court Officers of Nassau County, Bench and Bar Award
- Eastern Orthodox Lawyers Association, Judiciary Award
- Long Beach Lawyers Association, Judge of the Year Award
- “Legend” of Emory Swimming

EDUCATION

- Fordham University School of Law, J.D. (1980)
- Emory University, B.A. (1977)