



Nancy Lesser is the principal of Pax ADR in Washington DC, and brings over 25 years of experience as a neutral to her dispute resolution practice. Prior to establishing her own alternative dispute resolution firm, she was a partner with the distinguished law firm of Williams & Connolly, where she specialized in litigating complex commercial cases nationwide.

After spending over 20 years as both a mediator and arbitrator, Ms. Lesser's practice is now limited to arbitration. She serves as an arbitrator on the Large, Complex Commercial Disputes Arbitration Panel of the American Arbitration Association, the Panel of Neutrals for the American Health Lawyers Association; the Panel of Distinguished Neutrals for the Commercial, Banking, Accounting, Financial Services, and Real Estate Panels of the CPR Institute for Dispute Resolution. She is a Fellow of the College of Commercial Arbitrators.

Ms. Lesser works with Fortune 500 companies, federal and state agencies, small businesses, and individuals. She has assisted parties in resolving critical and complex problems, ranging from:

- government and private contract claims
- insurance coverage disputes
- whistleblower claims, including False Claims Act and Sarbanes Oxley actions
- securities cases, including FINRA proceedings and SEC enforcement actions
- intellectual property claims, including patent, copyright and software licensing issues
- securities, employee and consumer class actions and shareholder suits
- personal injury claims, including medical, legal, and accounting malpractice actions

Arbitration Expertise

Ms. Lesser has overseen hundreds of commercial arbitrations involving multi-million dollar claims. She has served as chair of many domestic and international arbitration panels and has also served frequently as sole arbitrator and neutral wing. Ms. Lesser has a broad range of arbitration experience, from contract and securities cases to intellectual property disputes and insurance coverage claims. She has presided over a number of utility ratemaking cases; healthcare industry disputes; accounting disputes regarding post-acquisition closing balance sheets; breach of contract and breach of fiduciary duty claims between joint venture partners; breach of contract actions between suppliers and customers for services or goods; and data compensation proceedings under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act. She serves as Standing Chair of the National Arbitration Panel, hearing disputes between Amtrak and the freight railroads. More details about Ms. Lesser's experience may be found on her website, www.paxadr.com.

Panel Memberships

- Chair of the Amtrak National Arbitration Panel, which hears disputes between Amtrak and the freight railroads nationwide
- Panel Member, Large Complex Case Arbitration and Mediation Panel, American Arbitration Association
- Panel of Distinguished Neutrals for the Commercial, Employment, and Banking, Accounting and Financial Services Panels of the CPR Institute for Dispute Resolution
- Panel, American Health Lawyers Association
- Member, National Academy of Distinguished Neutrals

Affiliations and Professional Activities

Ms. Lesser is a Fellow of the College of Commercial Arbitrators. She served as past chair of the Ethical Guidance Committee of the Section of Dispute Resolution of the American Bar Association. She has served as mediation trainer for the U.S. Department of Justice, the International Trademark Association, and the International Law Institute. She speaks frequently on panels and to private groups.

Professional Background

Founder and Principal, PAX ADR LLC, Washington, DC 2001-present

Alternative dispute resolution firm providing arbitration and mediation services.

Senior Counsel to the Secretary, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Washington, DC 2000-2001

Legal advisor to Secretary; spearheaded major Secretarial policy initiatives, including fair housing enforcement, predatory lending, subsidized housing, historic preservation and community development.

Partner, Williams & Connolly, Washington, DC 1990-2000 (associate, 1982-1990)

Nationwide trial and appellate practice focusing on complex cases in federal and state courts. Cases handled included securities fraud class actions, corporate governance disputes, employment cases, intellectual property claims, and medical, legal and accounting malpractice claims. Conducted internal investigations involving banking fraud and securities violations.

Associate, Cravath, Swaine & Moore, New York, NY 1981-1982

Litigation associate

Education

J.D., Georgetown University Law Center, 1981, magna cum laude
M.A., Urban and Environmental Planning, University of Virginia, 2000
B.A., City College of the City of New York, 1975, summa cum laude

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