



Hon. Bernetta D. Bush (Ret.)

Hon. Bernetta D. Bush (Ret.) has over 15 years of distinguished service on the Circuit Court of Cook County, Chicago IL. She is known for her ability to listen to both sides of a dispute and for her success in achieving fair, expeditious and cost effective resolution to complex disputes.

ADR Experience and Qualifications

Judge Bush brings over 30 years experience as a judicial officer and legal practitioner to her dispute resolution practice. She has extensive experience in the resolution of a wide array of complex and multi party disputes in the following areas:

- Arbitration
- Business and commercial disputes
- Class Actions
- Employment
- Environmental
- Health Care
- Insurance
- Personal Injury
- Real estate

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Representative Matters

Business/Commercial

- Decided multimillion, multi-party dispute between shareholders regarding valuation and dissolution of manufacturing company
- Decided valuation dispute between shareholders in a closely held Wine Distribution Company
- Settled a dispute involving a national hotel chain billing procedures
- Handled a multi-party dispute involving a wireless communication company and a competitor over tower access issues.
- Resolve numerous disputes between law firms and former partners

Class Action

- Mediated a class action involving warranty of major window manufacturer
- Appointed special master in class action involving detention condition of suspects retained in the City of Chicago Police Stations
- Resolved nationwide class action involving price fixing in music industry
- Settled nationwide class action involving mislabeling of baby formula where the directions provide in Spanish resulted in incorrect preparation of the formula
- Settled class action involving a dispute with a major newspaper over circulation numbers in the Chicago area
- Settled national class action involving charges for telephone services to hotel guests of a national hotel chain
- Settled class action involving the charges associated with the purchase of Chicago Cub tickets by mail

Employment

- Settled, mediated and decided numerous disputes involving restrict covenants, non compete non solicitation and confidentiality clauses in employment contracts
- Decided disputes involving termination, salary and benefits of chief executives in major companies
- Decided disputes involving Illinois Wage Payment and Collection disputes
- Resolved matter involving partnership disputes

Environment

- Decided a dispute involving the Chicago Metropolitan Water Reclamation District and discharges of waste materials by a metal manufacturer into the waters of Lake Michigan
- Resolved a dispute involving a major natural gas company and insurers over underground contamination and a seepage issues
- Decided many disputes involving contamination caused by underground storage tanks
Settled a matter involving a dispute over contamination caused by printing equipment of a local newspaper company
- Decided disputes involving mold and toxic substances in condominiums, single family homes and commercial properties

Health Care

- Handled numerous disputes involving medical billing claims between hospitals and medical insurers including Medicare
- Handled disputes involving hospitals for wrongful discharge claims by hospital executives and doctors
- Handled contract disputes between doctors and medical groups

Insurance

- Decided a insurance coverage dispute between a major gas company and multiple insurers
- Decided or settled numerous disputes involving duty to defend and/or indemnify in personal injury, property damage and medical malpractice claims against insured parties
- Decided or settled multiple disputes between owners of motor vehicles and insurance carriers involving coverage and duty to defend
- Decided or settled numerous malpractice and professional coverage disputes involving the legal and medical profession

Real Estate

- Decided multimillion dollar dispute between limited Partners and LLC over a real estate development in Chicago's South Loop
- Decided a dispute between the City of Chicago, developer and a condominium Association over air and land rights regarding further construction on current site
- Decided or settled numerous disputes involving residential and commercial foreclosures

Honors, Memberships, and Professional Activities

- Member, Chicago Bar Association, Cook County Bar Association, National Bar Association, Black Women's Bar Association, Black Women Lawyers' Association
- Board member, Illinois Judges Association and Illinois Judicial Council
- Judicial Fellow, Association of Trial Lawyers
- Lecturer and panelist, Chicago Bar Association, Illinois Bar Association, National Bar Association, DePaul University School of Law, Loyola University School of Law, and many other legal organizations
- Faculty, Mediation Course, Chicago, National Judicial College, 2007, 2008
- Faculty, Supreme Court Conference, 2005-2007

Background and Education

- Judge, Circuit Court of Cook County (1992 - 2007)
 - Ethics Officer City Colleges of Chicago (2007 -)
 - J.D., DePaul University College of Law, 1977
 - M.A., Northeastern Illinois University, 1973
 - B.A., Northeastern Illinois University, 1970
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