



Lawyers for Business, Counselors for Life.®

Frederic S. Kessler

Special Counsel

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Frederic S. Kessler specializes in alternative dispute resolution, including the arbitration and mediation of complex business, employment, and probate disputes. He also accepts appointments as special master in civil cases.

Professional History

Judge Kessler was appointed as Presiding Judge of the Superior Court, Chancery Division, General Equity Part, Union County in 2012. As Presiding Judge, Judge Kessler was responsible for the management and resolution of all chancery, probate, and foreclosure cases pending in Union County.

Judge Kessler previously sat in the Law Division and Family Division of the Superior Court in Union County. As a Law Division judge, he handled a wide variety of civil cases, including employment, malpractice, and products liability. He was specially assigned to the complex commercial case docket and served as the Mount Laurel Judge for Union County.

Prior to his judicial service, Judge Kessler spent more than 25 years as a litigator with two Newark law firms, where his areas of concentration included business litigation, land use law, and insurance regulation. Judge Kessler's focus on alternative dispute resolution began in 1996, when he was admitted as an arbitrator for the commercial arbitration program in Union County. In 1999, he was admitted to the roster of civil mediators, and he regularly mediated cases in Union, Hudson, and Bergen counties until his appointment to the bench.

Memberships and Activities

- American Bar Association
- New Jersey State Bar Association
- Union County Bar Association
- Fellow, American Bar Foundation
- Former Member, District V-A Ethics Committee

Former Arbitrator, Commercial Arbitration Program, Superior Court, Union County
Former Mediator for Superior Court programs in Union, Hudson and Bergen Counties
Former President, Harvard Law School Association of New Jersey
Former President, New Jersey Chapter of the Brandeis Alumni Association
Former Chairman and Member of the Cranford Planning Board
Former Member, Board of Directors, YM-YWHA of Union County

Beyond the Law

“I am a diehard New York Met fan. I also enjoy listening to music, from classical to classic rock.”

Practice Areas

Alternative Dispute Resolution
Appointment as Special Master

Court Admissions

New Jersey
United States District Court, District of New Jersey
United States Court of Appeals, Third Circuit

Education

J.D., *cum laude*, Harvard Law School, 1978
A.B., *magna cum laude*, Brandeis University, 1975
Phi Beta Kappa