

Ninth District Court of Appeals' Mediation Program

The Ninth District Court of Appeals' mediation program will be undergoing a transition in the next two weeks. John Minter joined the Court a little more than a year ago and has served as an excellent mediator for the Court. John will be moving to a new mediation position with the United States Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals in October. The Court has selected Matt Mennes as the Court's new mediation attorney.

Matt has extensive mediation experience that began many years ago. He began his career in private practice before transitioning to a position as a staff attorney in the Office of Dispute Resolution for the National Association of Securities Dealers. He also served as the Director of Arbitration for the New York Stock Exchange Group in San Francisco.

Matt then served as a Case Manager for an ADR group in California before returning to Ohio. He founded a dispute resolution firm and provided mediation training to courts and organizations around northeast Ohio. From there, he transitioned to serve as a court mediator. Matt spent the last ten years as a court mediator for the Lake County Court of Common Pleas and, most recently, the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas.

Matt has deep roots in the Ninth District. His family still lives in Wayne County where he grew up. He graduated magna cum laude from the University of Akron with a B.A. in History. He received his J.D. from Case Western Reserve University School of Law.

Matt said he was bitten by the mediation bug while working in California and he has devoted almost 20 years to it. He has spoken at numerous CLEs on topics related to mediation, including a recent presentation on using Zoom in mediations during the pandemic. He has served as President of the Cleveland Mediation Center and the Mediation Association of Northeast Ohio. He is currently ADR Section Chair for the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association. Matt will also be a member of the Akron, Lorain, Medina, and Wayne County Bar Associations.

Matt and John will be working together over the next two weeks to ensure a smooth transition. Matt can be reached at (330) 643-6452 or by email at Mediator@ninth.courts.state.oh.us. More information about the Court's mediation program is also available at www.ninth.courts.state.oh.us/mediation.htm.