

MARY JO GILSDORF, ESQ.

Attorney, Arbitrator, Mediator

Gilsdorf Law, LLC

A Pennsylvania Professional Limited Liability Company

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Now able to conduct remote mediations and arbitration proceedings through virtual platforms.

Since beginning an active practice in Alternative Dispute Resolution in 2014, Mary Jo Gilsdorf has served as an Arbitrator over one hundred times and has also conducted close to a hundred successful mediations in a variety of cases. Currently serving on several Alternative Dispute Resolution Panels as an Arbitrator and Mediator handling matters involving construction, breach of contract, real estate, personal injury, business dissolution, legal fees, landlord-tenant, mortgage foreclosure and other commercial disputes. Additional extensive experience with complex contract negotiations, real estate transactions, insurance coverage, third party bodily injury claims, commercial litigation, and environmental law. Available to serve on one of the panels noted below or privately.

Although Mary Jo has broad experience in commercial matters, she has a deep experience and knowledge of the Construction Industry. In 1997, she began as a generalist in a small construction firm and gained broad based experience performing duties as a contract administrator, assistant project manager and general assistant for estimating, field supervision and safety. Moving to a large regional construction management firm, became a cost engineer analyzing cost entitlement and valuation issues and then assumed the sole in-house counsel role. Prepared, navigated, negotiated and resolved claims with subcontractors, owners and design professionals beginning my ADR experience while employed there for over 12 years. Through this varied industry hands-on exposure, gained significant experience with proceedings that involved all tiers in the construction: subcontractor, supplier, contractor, construction manager, owner and design professionals.

Representative ADR proceedings in construction have concerned both residential and commercial construction matters involving a variety of subject matter such as Performance and Payment Issues, Scheduling Issues and Delay Claims, Contract Breach and Termination Issues, Cost Entitlement, Change Order Entitlement and Value, Concealed Conditions, Coordination Disputes, Financing / Work-out issues, Construction Defect Issues, Design Errors and Omissions, Stucco / EIFS issues, Professional Liability and Disputes involving Coordination and Building Information Modeling (BIM) ranging from \$ 50K to \$ 12MM in value.

Mary Jo Gilsdorf, Esq.
(610) 755 - 7806
Page 2

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION PANELS:

American Arbitration Association, Mediator; Arbitrator: Construction (Fixed Rate & Time, Regular Track and Complex Construction) and Commercial Arbitration Panels

Delaware County Court of Common Pleas, Arbitration Division, Arbitrator.

Chester County Court of Common Pleas, Arbitrator.

New Jersey Superior Court, Mediator, Arbitrator

Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas, Judge Pro Tem, Mortgage Foreclosure Diversion Program.

Chester County Bar Association Court Annexed Mediation Program, Mediator.

Chester County Bar Association Fee Dispute Program, Mediator and Arbitrator

Delaware County Bar Association Fee Dispute Program, Mediator.

Pennsylvania REALTORS® Association and Suburban West REALTORS® Association, Home Sellers/ Home Buyers Dispute Resolution System Mediation Program, Mediator.

EXPERIENCE:

GILSDORF LAW, LLC, Glen Mills, PA 2014-Present
Principal: Attorney, Arbitrator, Mediator, Independent Neutral for Construction Projects.
Represent clients on various construction, real estate, contract and other matters. Serve on several Arbitration and Mediation Panels, both private and court annexed.

LOHR & ASSOCIATES, West Chester, PA 2016 – February 2020
Of Counsel: Generalist providing legal services on a variety of general matters including real estate, consumer protection, commercial litigation.

L. F. DRISCOLL COMPANY, LLC, Bala Cynwyd, PA 2000 - 2014
Director of Legal Services: Sole in-house counsel position in a large regional construction management firm involved with commercial, private and public work up to \$ 300MM in per project value. Significant experience with claim preparation, negotiation, and resolution; contract negotiations; and miscellaneous legal matters. Initially gained practical experience as a cost engineer on a major performing arts project (over \$ 200M) analyzing entitlement and value of change order requests from subcontractors to achieve resolution of claims. During my tenure at L. F. Driscoll, also managed and oversaw all third-party personal injury claims and worked closely with outside coverage counsel on such matters.

Mary Jo Gilsdorf, Esq.
(610) 755 - 7806
Page 3

EHRET CONSTRUCTION CO., INC., Wilmington, DE 1997-2000

Generalist: Practical hands-on construction experience with a full range of duties including legal services, contract administration, assistant project management and as a general assistant for estimating, field supervision and safety in small construction management company.

SOLE PRACTITIONER, Media, PA 1993-1997

General representation of commercial and private clients in a variety of matters.

MANKO, GOLD & KATCHER, Bala Cynwyd, PA 1991-1993

Associate in an Environmental Law with regulatory and litigation practice.

BLANK, ROME, COMISKY & McCAULEY, Philadelphia, PA 1983-1991

Associate, Law Clerk and Paralegal in Environmental and Litigation Departments.

EDUCATION:

VILLANOVA LAW SCHOOL, Villanova, PA, 1989, Moot Court Chairperson, Theodore

Riemel Moot Court Award 1988, Herman Mitchel Schwartz Award

UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE, Bachelor of Fine Arts, Newark, DE, 1980, *cum laude*

BAR ADMISSIONS:

Pennsylvania (active); New Jersey (active); Washington, D.C. (inactive)

SELECTED CONTINUING EDUCATION:

Presenter: Elements of a Residential Construction Claim, Delaware Co. Bar Assoc. Bench Bar Conference, June 2019

Presenter: Building Blocks of Construction Law, Delaware County Bar Assoc. Bench Bar Conference, June 2018

Presenter: AAA In-house Training, Johnson, RI, Working with Difficult People and Drafting an Award, April 2018

Presenter: Working with the Standard AIA Construction Contracts; Delaware County Bar Association, Real Estate

Section, September 2017; Chester County Bar Association, Construction Law Committee, November 2017

Presenter: Ethical Issues Facing Mediators; Chester County Bar Association, ADR Committee October 2017

Presenter: Delving into the Details of a GMP Contract; Pennsylvania Bar Institute 20th Annual Real Estate Institute, December 2016

Presenter: Mediating in Different Contexts; Chester County Bar Association, ADR Committee, October 2016

Presenter: Construction Manager As Advisor and At Risk: A Comparison of Construction Management Project

Delivery Systems; Pennsylvania Bar Institute 19th Annual Real Estate Institute, December 2015

Presenter: Building a Construction Contract, Delaware County Bar Association, May 2015

Presenter: Survey of Arbitration Forums, Chester County Bar Association, April 2015

12th Annual Arbitration Training Institute, American Bar Association, May 15-16, 2019

ACE 19 – Case Finances: What Arbitrators Need To Know; American Arbitration Association, May 13, 2019

Advanced Mediation Training, NJICLE, December 2016, June 2015, July 2018

Mary Jo Gilsdorf, Esq.
(610) 755 - 7806
Page 4

Basic Arbitration Training, NJ ICLE, April, 2016
Judge Pro Tempore Training for Mortgage Foreclosure Diversion Program, March 2016, April 2017
Developments in Arbitration Law: Testing the Boundaries of Court Intervention, AAA May 2015
Contemporary Settlement Evaluation, Delaware County Bar Association, December 2014, June 2017
Essential Mediation Skills for the New Mediator, AAA, October 2014
Principled Deliberations: Decision-making Skills for Arbitrators, AAA, May 2014
Arbitration Fundamentals and Best Practices for New AAA Arbitrators, June 2013
Association of Corporate Counsel, In-House Counsel Conference, 2013, 2014
American General Contractors Counsel, Risk Managers and Surety Conference; 2011, 2013
American Arbitration Association, Cutting Construction Arbitration Costs Without Compromise, 2012
How to Become a More Innovative Neutral or Advocate: Applying Cutting Edge Innovation Management Techniques to Your ADR Practice, 2012.
Employment and Labor Law Symposium, Blank, Rome, L. P., 2011, 2012, 2014
Coverage College – Insurance Claims and Coverage Issues, White and Williams, 2008-2011, 2013, 2014
American General Contractors Conference, Conference on Federal Contracting, 2011, 2013
International Risk Management Institute, Inc., Annual Construction Risk Conferences, 2004, 2006

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS:

American Bar Association, Section on Dispute Resolution, Forum on Construction Law and Women In Dispute Resolution Committee Member
Pennsylvania Bar Association, Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee, Member
Delaware County Bar Association, Member, ADR, Arbitration and Real Estate Committee Member
Chester County Bar Association, Member, Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee (Co-Chair) and Real Estate Section Member
Pennsylvania Council of Mediators, Member
The Greater Philadelphia Chapter of the Association for Conflict Resolution, Member
Delaware County Bar Association, Guy deFuria Inn of Court, Secretary 2019-2020
American Orchid Society, Accredited Judge

REFERENCES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

Mary Jo Gilsdorf, Esq.
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Page 5

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