

MARY JO GILSDORF, ESQ.

Attorney, Arbitrator, Mediator

Gilsdorf Law, LLC

A Pennsylvania Professional Limited Liability Company

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PROFILE

Active in all aspects of the Construction Industry since 1997. 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 entitlement issues and value of change order requests from subcontractors to achieve resolution of claims 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. Representative projects range from \$ 100K to \$ 300MM in value and include commercial buildings, hospitals, hotels, offices, residential buildings and condominiums, sports complexes, performing arts centers, garages, retail space and warehouse facilities involving new construction and renovation. 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 architect parties.

Representative ADR proceedings in construction have concerned scheduling issues and delay claims, cost entitlement, change order entitlement and value, concealed conditions, coordination disputes, financing / work-out issues, construction defect, design errors and omissions, professional liability and disputes involving coordination and Building Information Modeling (BIM) ranging from \$ 50K to \$ 12MM in value.

Currently serving on several Alternative Dispute Resolution Panels as an Arbitrator and Mediator handling matters involving construction, real estate, personal injury, automobile liability, landlord-tenant and other commercial issues. Additional extensive experience with complex contract negotiations, real estate transactions, insurance coverage, third party bodily injury claims, commercial litigation, and environmental law.

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ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION PANELS:

American Arbitration Association, Roster of Mediators; Arbitration Panel Member:
Commercial and Construction Panels, Fixed Time and Cost Panel.

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

Case Xplorer®, Evaluative Arbitration Panel Member.

New Jersey Superior Court, Mediation Panel Member.

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.

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.

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.

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KASSAB, CHERRY & ARCHIBOLD, Media, PA
Paralegal for Personal Injury and Toxic Tort Litigation Cases

1980-1983

EDUCATION:

VILLANOVA LAW SCHOOL, Villanova, PA, 1989, Moot Court Chairperson, Theodore Reimel Moot Court Award 1988, Herman Mitchel Schwartz Award 1989;
Moot Court Chairperson 1988-1989

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

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

Advanced Civil Mediation, NJ ICLE, June 2015

Developments in Arbitration Law: Testing the Boundaries of Court Intervention, AAA May 2015

Contemporary Settlement Evaluation, Delaware County Bar Association, December 2014

Essential Mediation Skills for the New Mediator, AAA, October 2014

Arbitration in Delaware County, Delaware County Bar Association, September 2014

Principled Deliberations: Decision-making Skills for Arbitrators, AAA, May 2014

Conducting Research & Investigations: the Arbitrator's Authority, 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, Member

Delaware County Bar Association, Member, ADR, Arbitration and Real Estate Committee Member

Chester County Bar Association, Member, Alternative Dispute Resolution and Real Estate Sections Member

Pennsylvania Council of Mediators, Member

BNI, Delaware Valley Regions, West Chester 1 Chapter

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REFERENCES:

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Additional References Available Upon Request.