

**STUART M. WIDMAN**  
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January 2016 to  
Present

Widman Law Offices LLC, Chicago, Illinois

Commercial Dispute Resolution Specialist: Alternative Dispute Resolution - Arbitration, Mediation, Early Case Assessments, Mock Hearings; Litigation - Trials, Discovery, Motions and Appeals in Federal and State Courts

Arbitrator or mediator in over 300 matters with claims totaling \$2 billion; usually sole arbitrator or panel chair; issued hundreds of awards and interim orders on merits and procedures

Subject areas include: Healthcare, Securities and Commodities, Commercial Code, Corporate, Business Acquisitions, Partnerships, Bankruptcy, Real Estate and Construction, International, Manufacturing, Employment, Biotechnology and Pharmaceuticals, Insurance, Lender Liability, Environmental, Food and Consumer Products, Franchises, Licenses, Intellectual Property, Trademarks and Trade Secrets, Computers and E-Commerce, Utilities and Telecommunications, Accounting and Finance, Sports, Taxation, Transportation, Supplies and Distribution, Education, Printing and Packaging, Professional Ethics and Responsibility, General Contract and Common Law Claims, Antitrust, Domestic Relations, Entertainment, Municipal and Governmental, and Class Actions

2004 to 2015

Partner - Miller Shakman & Beem LLP, Chicago, Illinois

1977 to 2003

Partner - Much Shelist Freed Denenberg Ament & Rubenstein, P.C., Chicago, Illinois

1974 to 1976

Lecturer in Law, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nigeria  
Taught Commercial, Contract, Torts, and Food and Drug Law

**EDUCATION**

Graduate

Northwestern University School of Law, Chicago, Illinois J.D., 1974

Undergraduate

Wharton School of Finance, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, B.S. Finance, 1970

## PUBLICATIONS

“Ethics Safe Harbor: Lawyer Neutrals Exempt From Safekeeping Property Obligation,” *Dispute Resolution Journal*, Vol. 71, No. 2, American Arbitration Association, 2016

“Effective Advocacy In Health Care Arbitrations”, *AHLA Connections*, January 2016

“An Essay on the Role of Courage in Being an Arbitrator”; *Dispute Resolution Journal*, American Arbitration Association, July 2012

“Early Neutral Evaluation: Reducing Litigation Risk with an Inside Preview of the Judge’s Decision,” *SRR Journal*, September 2011

“Mediating Municipal Disputes,” *Illinois Municipal League Review*, August 2011

Contributing author, “Comments To The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau In Connection With Its Review Of Arbitration For Consumer Financial Products Or Services,” *Cardozo Journal of Conflict Resolution*, July, 2011

“Courage: An Arbitrator’s Thoughts on Making Decisions,” *Chicago Daily Law Bulletin*, April 2011

“Judicial Remands of Challenged Awards: Legal and Procedural Issues After Hall Street,” *Dispute Resolution Journal*, American Arbitration Association, December 2008; reprinted in *Handbook On Arbitration Practice*, American Arbitration Association, 2010

“Hall Street v. Mattel: The Supreme Court’s Alternative Arbitration Universes,” *Dispute Resolution Magazine*, American Bar Association Section of Dispute Resolution, November 2008

“Going Through The Motions: The Federal Arbitration Act’s Limits On The Right To A Jury Trial And Discovery In Federal Court,” *Trial Practice Journal*, American Bar Association Section of Litigation, May 2008

“Class Action Arbitration,” American Bar Association Section of Litigation 11<sup>th</sup> Annual National Institute on Class Actions, October 2007

“The Protections and Limits of Confidentiality in Mediation,” two-Part article in *Alternatives*, CPR International Institute for Conflict Prevention and Resolution, November-December, 2006

“When It’s Over Before It’s Completed: The Finality of Interim Awards,” two-part article in *Alternatives*, CPR International Institute for Conflict Prevention and Resolution, June-July, 2006

“Courts or Arbitrators? Who Decides Arbitrability Issues,” *Chicago Bar Association Record*, January 2006

“Avoiding Mediation Impasse,” *Alternative Dispute Resolution Supplement*, Law Bulletin Publishing Company, January 2006

“Piecing Together Your Client’s Victory: Drafting the Right Arbitration Clause,” *Business Law Today*, American Bar Association Section of Business Law, Sept./Oct. 2004

“What’s Certain is the Lack of Certainty About Who Decides the Existence of the Arbitration Agreement,” *Dispute Resolution Journal*, American Arbitration Association, May 2004

Commentary on Federal Arbitration Act, 9 USC §1 et seq., National Institute for Trial Advocacy (2004)

“Peeling The Onion: The Heart of The Trial is The Heart of The Parties,” *Commercial & Business Litigation Committee Journal*, American Bar Association Section of Litigation, Winter 2002-2003

“Ethics and Conduct in ADR,” Chapter in two-volume publication *Alternative Dispute Resolution*, Illinois Institute of Continuing Legal Education, October 2001

“Mediating A Y2K Dispute,” *Chicago Lawyer*, August 1999

Principal author: “A Concise Guide To Alternative Dispute Resolution in Illinois,” Illinois State Bar Association, Section on Alternative Dispute Resolution, 1996

“ADR and Lawyer Ethics,” *Illinois Bar Journal*, March 1994, Vol. 82, No. 3, and republished in *Facts & Findings*, November 1994, Vol. XXI, Issue 3

“Attorneys’ Ethical Duties To Know And Advise Clients About ADR,” American Bar Association Center for Professional Responsibility, materials for 19<sup>th</sup> National Conference on Professional Responsibility, May 1993, and republished in 1993 Symposium Issue of *The Professional Lawyer*

“ADR - What You Don’t Know Can Hurt You,” Illinois State Bar Association, Committee on Alternative Dispute Resolution Newsletter,

Vol. 1, No. 1, June 1992; also in *Chicago Daily Law Bulletin*, August 21, 1992 and June 15, 1995

Contributing author: "Arbitrator Reference Manual," Illinois Supreme Court, 1992

Contributing author: "A Drafter's Guide To Alternative Dispute Resolution," American Bar Association, Committee on Dispute Resolution, 1991

**HONORS  
AND AWARDS**

Council Member, ABA Section of Dispute Resolution, 2013 – 2016

Selected 2007-2008 as Leading Illinois Attorney in Commercial Litigation and ADR: Commercial Real Estate, Environmental, Employment and Construction by Leading Lawyers Network

Selected 2005 as one of ten Illinois "Superlawyers" in ADR/Arbitration and Mediation by Leading Lawyers Network

Selected 1999-2001 as Leading American Attorney in ADR: Commercial Law by American Research Corporation

Selected 1997-2001 as Leading Illinois Attorney in ADR: Commercial Law by American Research Corporation

**TEACHING**

Faculty, American Arbitration Association training program on Commercial Arbitration, 2000-Present (Advanced), 1998-2005 (Basic), 2003-2005 (Award Writing), special programs (2014 – present)

Faculty, American Health Lawyers Association arbitration training program, Chicago, 2014 – present

Faculty, American Arbitration Association training program on Mediation, 2013

Faculty, International Law Institute, Mediation training, Lesotho, November 2013

Faculty, DePaul University College of Law; Commercial Arbitration, Spring, 2003

Faculty, ABA Section of Dispute Resolution, Arbitration Institutes, 2016 – present

Conference Co-Chair, ABA Section of Dispute Resolution Annual Meeting, Chicago, April 2013

Faculty Member, National Institute of Trial Advocacy Program on Negotiation and Mediation, June 1997, Northwestern University School of Law

**INTERNATIONAL  
CONSULTING**

Nepal International ADR Centre, January 2015

Lagos, Nigeria, Multi-Door Courthouse, May 2014

Bulgarian Institute for Legal Initiatives, December 2013

**PRESENTATIONS**

Presenter, Union League Club, “Alternative Dispute Resolution In Real Estate Transactions”, August 2016

Faculty, American Health Lawyers Association Meeting, “Health Care Arbitration”, 2016, 2014

Presenter, Forensic Expert Witness Association, “The Expert As Arbitrator”, December 2015

Presenter, American Health Lawyers Association Webinar, “False Claims Act Cases – Settlement And ADR”, November 2014

Presenter, ABA Section of Dispute Resolution, “Advanced Mediation And Advocacy Skills Institute”, October 2014

Panelist, ABA/AAA Joint Program, “Stories Mediators Tell”, October, 2014

Panelist, ABA Section of Business Law Meeting, “Dispute Resolution In Commercial Finance,” September 2014

Panelist, American Health Lawyers Association Webinar, “Advocating Effectively in Health Care Arbitration”, December 2013

Speaker, American Arbitration Association Webinar, “Arbitrators Conducting Legal Research”, November 2013

Panelist, ABA National Class Action Institute, Boston, October 2013

Panelist, CBA Labor & Employment Section, “Advocacy in Employment Arbitration”, September 2013, Chicago

Panelist, ABA Section of Dispute Resolution Annual Meeting, “Herding Cats: The Case for Joined or Collective Arbitration”, April 2013, Chicago, IL

Speaker, American Arbitration Association Webinar, “Arbitrability and Jurisdiction Issues in Arbitration”, February 2013 and October 2011

Speaker, ABA Section of Business Law Annual Meeting, “Achieving Justice Through 21<sup>st</sup> Century Arbitration”, August 2012, Chicago, IL

Speaker, Cook County Circuit Court, “Current Issues in Mediation Ethics”, March 2011

Panelist, Intellectual Property Law Association of Chicago, “ADR In Intellectual Property Disputes”, February 2011

Speaker, ABA Section of Litigation, 13<sup>th</sup> Annual National Institute on Class Actions, “Crafting, Opposing and Arguing Arbitration Clauses and Class Action Waivers,” October and November 2009

Speaker, American Arbitration Association Webinar, “Judicial Remands of Challenged Awards,” October 2009

Speaker, ABA Section of Dispute Resolution Webcast, “*Hall Street v. Mattel: The FAA’s Grounds Of Review Are Preserved – Or Are They?*,” July 2008

Panelist, ABA Section of Dispute Resolution, “The Creature of Contract: Have Parties’ Contracts Created a Frankenstein of the FAA’s Grounds of Arbitration Award Review?,” April 2008

Panelist, ABA Section of Dispute Resolution, “Surprising Practical and Legal Issues That Can Arise in Any Arbitration: Lessons from the First Public Olympic Sports Arbitration, *Floyd Landis v. USADA*,” April 2008

Panelist, Association for Conflict Resolution, “Ethical Issues in Business and Commercial Disputes,” March 2008

Speaker, Illinois State Bar Association, “Appeal of an Arbitration Award Federal Arbitration Act v. Federal Rules of Civil Procedure,” February 2008

Panelist, CPR Institute for Dispute Resolution, “Deciding Arbitrability: Sorting Out The Court’s Directives,” October 2007

Panelist, ABA Section of Litigation 11<sup>th</sup> Annual National Institute on Class Actions, “Class Action Arbitration,” October 2007

Panelist, Law Bulletin Publishing Corp., “ADR In Real Estate Transactions,” October 2007

Speaker, Illinois Institute of Continuing Legal Education, “ADR - Ethics For The Business Lawyer,” September 2007

Panelist, Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, “Arbitration And Mediation Of Securities Disputes,” September 2007

Panelist, American Bar Association Section of Dispute Resolution, “Class Action Arbitration,” April 2007

Speaker, Chicago Bar Association, “When The Federal Arbitration Act Meets The Federal Rules of Civil Procedure: Limits On Jury Trials And Discovery In Pre- and Post-Arbitration Matters In The Federal Courts,” March 2007

Speaker, Chicago Bar Association, “Arbitration: What You Need To Know As A Litigator,” October 2006

Speaker, National Association of Administrative Law Judges, “Confidentiality in Mediation,” November 2005

Speaker, Chicago Bar Association, “Strategic Use of Arbitration in Resolving Commercial Disputes,” October 2005

Speaker, Cook County Circuit Court, “Breaking Impasse: Moving From Stalemate to Settlement in Mediation,” September 2005

Panelist, CPR Institute for Dispute Resolution, “Ethics in Mediation,” June 2005

Panelist, American Bar Association, Arbitration Training Institute II, Chicago, May 2005

Speaker, American Arbitration Association, “Arbitrability and Arbitrator Jurisdiction,” Chicago Region, May 2005

Panelist, American Bar Association Section of Dispute Resolution, “Following Goldilocks Through Grizzly Choices: Update on Drafting Effective and Enforceable Arbitration Clauses,” April 2004

Panelist, American Bar Association Section of Dispute Resolution, “Goldilocks and Arbitration Clauses: Too Little, Too Much (Too Bad) . . . Or Just Right!”, March 2003

Panelist, "ADR 2003: New Trends in Dispute Resolution," Chicago Bar Association/ACR, January 2003

Panelist, Northern Illinois University Symposium on Dispute Resolution, "Mediation Advocacy in Commercial Disputes," March 2001

Moderator/Speaker, "Doing Business in the Electronic Age," September 2000

Chair, American Bar Association Section of Litigation, "E-Commerce: Surfing the Substance," April 2000

Panelist, American Bar Association Section of Dispute Resolution, "Mediating the Y2K Bug," May 1999

Panelist, Chicago Bar Association, "Mediation Advocacy," November 1998

Panelist, Chicago Bar Association training program of arbitrators for attorney/client fee disputes, September 1998

Speaker, Vehicle Leasing Conference, September 1996

Radio Talk Show Guest, WCBR, "Ask A Lawyer," on Alternative Dispute Resolution, May 1996

Speaker, Chicago Bar Association, "Ethics, Malpractice, and Alternative Dispute Resolution," April 1994

Speaker, Wharton Alumni Club of Chicago, "Alternative Dispute Resolution," February 1994

Speaker, Society of Professionals in Dispute Resolution, "Court ADR Update," January 1994

Guest Lecturer, Lake Forest Graduate School of Management, December 1993

Speaker, University of Wisconsin - Madison School of Business (Management Institute), Alternative Dispute Resolution in Insurance and Reinsurance, July 1993

Panelist, American Bar Association Center for Professional Responsibility 19<sup>th</sup> National Conference, "Alternative Dispute Resolution: A New Frontier of Ethical Problems," May 1993



Speaker, Equipment Leasing Association of America Legal Forum, "Pros and Cons of Alternative Dispute Resolution," May 1993

Panelist, SPIDR Midwest Regional Conference on "Emerging Issues in Dispute Resolution," April 1993

Speaker, Chicago Bar Association Tort Litigation Committee, December 1993; Corporations Committee (Ethics Subcommittee), November 1993; Civil Practice Committee, October 1993; Professional Responsibility Committee, October 1993; Tort Committee, April 1993; Bankruptcy Committee, March 1993; Matrimonial Law Committee (ADR Subcommittee), January 1993

Participant, Roundtable Discussion, "Lawyer's Incivility in Courtroom," *Illinois Legal Times*, December 1992

Radio Talk Show Guest, Business Radio Network, "The Legal Advisor," on Alternative Dispute Resolution, March 1992

Speaker, Attorney General's Task Force on Environmental Legal Resources, March 1992

Speaker, Illinois State Bar Association Mid-Year Meeting, "Ethical Obligations to Use ADR," December 1991

Focus Group Leader on Alternative Dispute Resolution, Chicago Bar Association Justice for Youth Symposium, October 1991

Moderator, Chicago Bar Association, "Mandatory Arbitration in Cook County," February and March 1990

Speaker, Executive Suite Network, Inc., "Leases, Licenses and Lessons for Executive Suites," October 1990

Speaker, Society of Professionals in Dispute Resolution, "Implementing an ADR System in the Corporate Setting," November 1988

Speaker, Chicago Bar Association, "A Litigator's Viewpoint of Arbitration: The Benefits, Detriments and Betterments," February 1988

Faculty speaker, Illinois Institute of Continuing Legal Education, "Federal Civil Practice," May 1987

## **AFFILIATIONS**

Arbitrator/Mediator, American Arbitration Association (neutral and party-appointed), including Large Complex Case Panel, Healthcare Panel, Class Action Panel, and select panel on USA Track and Field grievances; on AAA Master Mediator Panel

Arbitrator/Mediator, AAA International Centre for Dispute Resolution

Arbitrator/Mediator, CPR International Institute for Conflict Prevention and Resolution (including select Health Care Panel)

Arbitrator/Mediator and Member, American Health Lawyers Association

Fellow, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, London

Arbitrator, Chicago Mercantile Exchange/Chicago Board of Trade (Business Conduct Committee)

Arbitrator/Mediator, ADR Systems of America

Arbitrator/Mediator, Cook County Circuit Court (Chancery and Law Cases)

Arbitrator/Mediator, Chicago International Dispute Resolution Association

Arbitrator/Mediator, Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA), formerly the National Association of Securities Dealers (NASD) and New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) (through 2009)

Mediator, Center for Conflict Resolution

Member, Illinois Judicial Conference Alternative Dispute Resolution Coordinating Committee (1990-2000)

Member, American Bar Association (Section of Business Law; Section of Dispute Resolution; Section of Litigation - ADR Committee; Section of Natural Resources, Energy and Environmental Law; Center of Professional Responsibility)

Member, Illinois State Bar Association (Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee; Commercial, Banking and Bankruptcy Law Section)

Member, Chicago Bar Association (Arbitration and Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee, 1985-present: Secretary 1987-1988, Vice Chairman 1988-1989, Chairman 1989-1990; International Law Committee; Commercial Litigation Committee)

## **LICENSES TO PRACTICE**

State of Illinois (1977)

State of Wisconsin (1988)

District Court for the Northern District of Illinois (1977); Trial Bar member (1982)

United States Tax Court (1987)

Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals (1981)

Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals (1989)

United States Supreme Court (1983)

## **CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION**

Mediator Training, Circuit Court of Cook County, 1993

Mediator Training, Center for Conflict Resolution, 1991

Arbitrator Training, American Arbitration Association, 1988, 1992, 1998, 2000

Arbitrator Training, American Health Lawyers Association, 2014 (Presenter)

Peer Review Training, American Health Lawyers Association, 2014

Arbitrator Training (Chairpersons), National Association of Securities Dealers, 1999

International Commercial Arbitrator Training, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, 1998 (Membership), 2010 (Fellowship Status)

Arbitrator Training, New York Stock Exchange, 1997

Arbitrator Training, Circuit Court of Cook County, 1990

Litigation Risk Analysis, December 1987

Diplomat, Court Practice Institute, 1981

Seminars on Securities, RICO, Environmental, Antitrust, Bankruptcy, Trial Practice, Appeals, and ADR

**COMMUNITY  
INVOLVEMENT**

Alderman/City Council Member, City of Lake Forest, Illinois, 2005 – 2011

Member, Building Review Board, City of Lake Forest, Illinois 2000 - 2005  
(Chair, 2003-2005)

Park District Commissioner, City of Highland Park, Illinois 1991-1996

Member, Business and Commercial Committee and Environmental Committee, Fort Sheridan Commission, 1989-1990

Member, Environmental Control Commission, City of Highland Park, Illinois, 1982-1989 (Chair, 1985-1987)