

MERRIL HIRSH, FCIARB
HIRSHADR PLLC
LAW OFFICE OF MERRIL HIRSH PLLC
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EMPLOYMENT

Principal, HirshADR PLLC and Law Office of Merrill Hirsh PLLC	Nov. 2017-
Executive Director Academy of Court-Appointed Neutrals (formerly The Academy of Court-Appointed Masters)	Sept. 2021-
Partner, Troutman Sanders, LLP (since merger)	2009-Oct. 2017
Partner, Ross, Dixon & Bell (Masback), LLP	1994-2009
Associate, Ross, Dixon & Masback, LLP	1989-1994
Trial Attorney, U.S. Dept. of Justice, Civil Division	1982-1989
Volunteer, Student Counsel, 40 hours/week, Harvard Legal Aid Bureau	1980-1982

EDUCATION

Harvard Law School, J.D., 1982 *Magna Cum Laude*
Oberlin College, B.A., 1979, with High Honors in Government, Comfort Starr Award for
Excellence in Government (1979), *Phi Beta Kappa* (1978)

ILLUSTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

- Responsible for strategic direction of the nation's only organization focused on developing and improving the profession of court-appointed neutrals. Worked with others to change the organization's name from the Academy of Court-Appointed Masters to the Academy of Court-Appointed Neutrals, to open membership to people who had not previously served in that capacity; to develop and promote a new training and mentoring program and to partner the organization with dozens of others involved in the administration of justice (September 2021-)
- Commercial Arbitrator, American Arbitration Association (2018-)
- Arbitrator, New Era ADR (2023-)
- Chair Arbitrator, International Bridge Association (2023-)
- Arbitrator, Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (2019-)
- Mediator, DC Multidoor Family Mediation Program (2022-)
- Hearing Examiner for employment disputes, Architect of the Capitol (September 2019-)
- Hearing Committee, DC Board of Professional Responsibility, Panel Chair (Nov. 2, 2019-present), Panel Member (Nov. 2, 2016-November 2, 2019)
- Represented plaintiffs and defendants in cases in state or federal courts in over 40 states and in numerous arbitrations
- Co-counsel in case resulting in a completely favorable Delaware jury verdict in favor of insurer based on failure to obtain consent to a settlement and affirmance by the Delaware Supreme Court

- Lead counsel for the Financial Planning Association in its successful challenge to the SEC's "broker-dealer" rule in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.
- Lead counsel for the Air Line Pilots Association in the arbitration involving one of the largest financial claims in its history.
- Lead counsel for insurer in first case ever to rule on whether entity insurance coverage for securities claims applies to claims arising from the insured's securitization of mortgages
- Successfully represented client in administrative law challenge concerning EPA regulation in the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit
- Successfully represented client in NEPA challenge in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia
- Represented State of Nevada before the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in opposing the licensing of the Yucca Mountain repository
- Represented UPREIT contributor in arbitration seeking to enforce tax protection agreement entered into by one of the largest REITs in the world.
- Represented relators in novel False Claims Act case that obtained \$76.25 million in recoveries based upon allegations of price fixing for carbon fiber and in companion antitrust litigation
- Successfully represented the USA Track & Field Association in an antitrust challenge to its standards for competition
- Lead counsel for the many-year primary insurer in a 15-year coverage dispute involving scores of thousands of asbestos claims
- Obtained an \$87.5 million settlement, serving as plaintiffs' co-lead counsel on behalf of a group of telecommunication companies in litigation involving telephone rates
- Was part of a team that secured a jury verdict finding over 26,000 violations of the Federal False Claims Act relating to the purchase of oil off Government and Native American leases
- Lead counsel for the primary director's and officers' liability insurer in connection with what was at the time the nation's largest health care bankruptcy
- Represented two adult gay Eagle Scouts in 10-year litigation challenging the Boy Scouts' policy of excluding gays
- Lead counsel for inventor of the accordion-folded car shade in patent and Lanham Act challenge
- Substantially responsible for crafting the class action mechanisms used to settle \$2 billion of asbestos liabilities
- Represented a DSL service provider in an antitrust action against a competing incumbent local exchange carrier for unlawfully maintaining monopoly power in various telecommunications markets
- Lead counsel for the (then) Veterans' Administration in two-month trial concerning the constitutionality of fee limits
- Lead counsel for the U.S. Department of Education in eight-month Kansas City, Missouri school desegregation trial

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- Co-author with Sylvia Mayer, "Time To Stop Hamstringing Bankruptcy Judges: Amending Bankruptcy Rule 9031 To Recognize and Permit the Use of Court-Appointed 'Masters,'" ABA Judicial Division JUDGES JOURNAL, v. 61, NO. 4 (Fall 2022) 4.
- So What Is A "Special Master" Anyway?, THE COURT MANAGER (scheduled Nov. 2022)

- “Bad Branding for a Great Idea: Making More Effective Use of Special Magistrates (Masters) in Florida,” THE COMMON GROUND (Summer 2022) 11, available at flabaradr.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/The-Common-Ground-Summer-2022.pdf.
- Interviewed in Lloyd Lui, “The Invaluable Role of Special Masters,” Washington Lawyer 46 (July/Aug. 2022).
- “Necessity and Invention: Seven Steps for Using Special Masters to Help Courts with the Pandemic Caseload,” American Bar Association Judicial Division, JUDGES JOURNAL, v.60, No. 3 at 18 (Summer 2021)
- “A Revolution That Doesn’t Offend Anyone: The ABA Guidelines on the Appointment and Use of Special Masters in Civil Litigation,” American Bar Association Judicial Division JUDGES JOURNAL (Fall 2019) at 30.
- “Special Masters: A Consensus Proposal for a New Approach to Civil Litigation,” ALTERNATIVES (International Institute for Conflict Prevention and Resolution) (December 2018) 169.
- “Special Masters: Helping Judges’ Reach Exceed Their Grasp,” ALTERNATIVES (International Institute for Conflict Prevention and Resolution) (June 2017), available at <http://altnewsletter.com/sample-articles/special-masters--how-to-help-judges--extend-their-reach--and-exceed-their-grasp.aspx>
- “We’ve Just Made Peace, Let’s Address the Next War: Taking Some Care To Get Dispute Resolution that Works for You,” TROUTMAN SANDERS PRIVATE EQUITY QUARTERLY, Summer 2016 (available at <https://sites-troutmansanders.vuturevx.com/32/1244/landing-pages/we-just-made-peace--let-s-address-the-next-war--taking-some-care-to-get-dispute-resolution-that-works-for-you.asp>), reprinted in LAW 360, September 1, 2016.
- “Writing Arbitration Clauses to Get the Arbitration You Want,” *Law 360* (August 9, 2016) (with Nicholas Schuchert), available at <https://merrilhirsh.com/writing-arbitration-clauses-to-get-the-arbitration-you-want/>.
- “Special Masters: A Different Answer to a Perennial Problem,” ABA THE JUDGES JOURNAL (with James Rhodes and Karl Bayer), v. 55 No. 2 (Spring 2016) at 26, available at http://www.troutmansanders.com/files/Uploads/Documents/JJ_SP16_v55n02_HirshRhodesBayer.pdf
- “Overlitigation is Killing Us: How In-House Counsel Can Get the Service They Deserve,” CORPORATE COUNSEL (May 2016), available for download from Lexis, <https://www.law.com/corpocounsel/almID/1202758108289/>
- “Getting It Right: The Other Challenge for Arbitration,” D.C. BAR LITIGATION SECTION QUARTERLY UPDATE at 16 (Winter 2015/2016), available at <http://www.dcbbar.org/sections/litigation/loader.cfm?csModule=security/getfile&PageID=44925>
- “Getting to Yes ... or No: Dispute Resolution that Resolves Disputes,” ALTERNATIVES (International Institute for Conflict Prevention and Resolution), v. 33 No. 7, at 1 (July/August 2015), reprinted in *International Arbitration Journal* (Oct. 2015) <http://int-arbitration.livejournal.com/46379.html>
- Special Masters: How To Make the Best of Both Worlds (multi-part posting on Karl Bayer’s Disputing blog, beginning November 2014) <http://www.disputingblog.com/special-masters-how-to-make-the-best-of-both-worlds-part-i/>
- “How to Hold Down Costs of Adjudication: Even in the US,” TerraLex *Connections* (October 2014)
- “Background of the Illinois Brick Decision,” Appendix, ABA Section of Antitrust Law’s Indirect Purchaser Litigation Handbook (August 8, 2007).

- Reverse Payment Settlements, ANTTTRUST (Summer 2007)
- “I Didn’t Say Orphan Often: The Benefits of a Bright-Line Rule Banning Brand to Generic Payments in Hatch-Waxman Patent Settlements,” ABA Antitrust Health Care Chronicle, Vol. 19, No. 2 (Summer 2005).
- “Are False Positives Really So Negative? A Response to Kevin McDonald,” ANTTTRUST, Vol. 17 No. 3, at 83 (Summer 2003).
- “The Essential Facilities Doctrine: Keeping the Word ‘Epithet’ from Becoming One” (March 21, 2003), available at https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=389200&rec=1&srcabs=1125368&alg=7&pos=1
- “In Re High Fructose Corn Syrup: A New Form of Chicago School Education,” Findlaw.com (November 1, 2002).
- “Can an Insurer and an Insured Settle an Insurance Policy?,” 11 Mealey’s Litig. Rep. at 15.
- ABA’s Antitrust and Telecommunications Practice Guide, Sherman Act Section 2 Chapter, Co-Author.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS AND SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Speaker, Environment, Energy, and Natural Resource Disputes: The Use of Special Masters in Resolving Complex Litigation, Conference of Chief Justices, Conference of State Court Administrators, National Center for State Courts, webinar, June 20, 2023, available at <https://www.ncsc.org/webinars>.
- Speaker, Judges and General Counsel Discuss the New Time Standards and the Effective Use of Court-Appointed Neutrals to Assist the Court, Chicago Bar Association, Illinois State Bar Association, Illinois Judges Association, Chicago, Illinois, June 8, 2023.
- Speaker, How to Use Court-Appointed Neutrals to Improve Case Management: A 2023 Benchbook, National Conference of State Court Judges, National Association of Women Judges, webinar, June 1, 2023, available at <https://lnkd.in/geXinUgJ>
- Speaker, “Everything You Wanted to Know About Special Masters and Court-Appointed Neutrals,” ABA Litigation Section, Annual Conference, Atlanta, GA, April 20, 2023 (scheduled).
- Speaker and Moderator, Academy of Court-Appointed Neutrals Annual Meeting, “Taking Advantage of the Expanding CAN Universe: Meet the Moment!,” “Meeting the Moment: ACAN Partners Discuss Collaboration and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion;” “Meeting the Moment: Professional Standards and a Professional Identity - A Chance to Comment on ACAN's Upcoming Statement of Professional Standards,” San Diego, CA, March 10-12, 2023
- Moderator, “Securities Class Actions: Slack Industries v. Pirana,” Epiq Mass and Class Summit, Fort Lauderdale, FL, March 1, 2023
- Speaker, “Continued Drive to Employ Special Masters,” Indianapolis Bar Association and Indiana Commercial Court CLE, Indianapolis, IN, Oct. 11, 2022
- Speaker, “Everything you wanted to know about being a Court-Appointed Neutral!” *f/k/a “Special Master,” a webinar for the Hispanic National Bar Association Region XIII and the Academy of Court-Appointed Neutrals (July 26, 2022)
- Speaker, “Brainstorming: How Adjunct Judicial Resources Can Assist Your Case Management,” National Association for Court Management Annual Meeting, July 11, 2022..
- Moderator and speaker, “A Bad Name for a Terrific Idea: How Judges Can Benefit from a Renamed Special Master Profession,” a webinar for the National Association of Women

Judges, June 20, 2022, available at <https://www.nawj.org/blog/newsroom/post/recording-now-available-a-bad-name-for-a-terrific-idea-how-judges-can-benefit-from-a-renamed-special-master-profession>

- Keynote speaker, Annual Meeting of the Academy of Court-Appointed Masters, May 5, 2022.
- “How Can Special Master Work Help Your Legal Community?” A segment of Special Master 101, a Training program of the Academy of Court-Appointed Masters, May 4, 2022.
- “What is a Special Master and How Can You Become One?,” ABA Dispute Resolution Section and GP-Solo Division Spring Conference, April 26, 2022.
- “A Revolution that Doesn’t Offend Anyone: A Plan for Making More Effective Use of Special Magistrates,” Sarasota County Bar Association, April 21, 2022.
- “What is a Special Master and How to Become One?” A program for the Coalition of Women's Initiatives in Law, Feb. 15, 2022.
- Moderator and Presenter, “Creative Problem-Solving: How to Use Special Masters,” a Presentation for the Federal Magistrate Judges Association, January 27, 2022.
- Moderator and Presenter, “Creativity and Diversity: How To Use Special Masters and How To Become One,” ABACLE Presentation, January 12, 2022.
- Becoming a Special Master: A Conversation with Merrill Hirsh, Resolutions: A Podcast About Dispute Resolution and Prevention, ABA Dispute Resolution Section, posted November 2021, <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/becoming-a-special-master-a-conversation-with-merril-hirsh/id1455143114?i=1000541245901>
- Moderator and Presenter, “Creativity for Crisis: How Can ADR Masters Assist Courts Post-Pandemic?,” scheduled for Spring Conference of the ABA Section of Dispute Resolution, April 15, 2021.
- Moderator and Presenter, “Careers Beyond the Bench and Bar: Arbitration, Mediation, and Special Masters,” ABA Judicial Division Webinar, November 11, 2020.
- “An Update on ABA Guidelines on the Appointment and Use of Special Masters,” Academy of Court Appointed Special Masters Annual Meeting, October 23, 2020.
- “Ethics for Special Masters: What Are the Problems and What Are the Rules?” Academy of Court Appointed Special Masters Annual Meeting, October 23, 2020.
- “Rolling Up Our Sleeves: Using Special Masters to Help Deal with the New Normal in Federal Court,” Federal Bar Association Virtual Annual Meeting (Sept. 9, 2020).
- “A Brainstorming Session: Using Special Masters to Help Deal with the Courts Deal with the Challenges of the Pandemic,” a presentation for the ABA Judicial Division (May 28, 2020), available at https://www.americanbar.org/groups/judicial/conferences/lawyers_conference/committees/special-masters/
- A Tool to Help Courts: Special Masters, a presentation for the Ohio Supreme Court Dispute Resolution Conference (recorded March 10, 2020), available at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kF9CJUvMgQo&list=PLLMZAKtESmQrN3Qd9F5ZHL_5wiAh55ml&index=3&t=0s
- “New Thinking on an Old Idea: How the ABA Guidelines on Special Masters Could Assist Judicial Administration in Florida,” Tampa, FL, January 14, 2020.
- “Special Master Resources,” An ABA Judicial Division Gavel Talk, posted September 24, 2019, available at https://www.americanbar.org/groups/judicial/publications/gavel_talks/special-masters-resources/

- “Introduction to Special Masters,” An ABA Judicial Division Gavel Talk, posted September 10, 2019, available at https://www.americanbar.org/groups/judicial/publications/gavel_talks/introduction-to-special-masters/
- “Avoiding A Game of Thrones in the Courtroom: Fostering Civility and Best Practices,” ABA Annual Meeting, San Francisco, Aug. 8, 2019.
- “A Tool for Modern Litigation: Mastering the Challenges,” (2019 Iowa Judges Conference Des Moines, June 10, 2019)
- “A New Approach to the Use of Special Master in Civil Litigation: the ABA Guidelines,” (Academy of Court Appointed Masters. Annual Meeting. Chicago, April 12, 2019).
- “A New World for ADR: The ABA’s Guidelines on the Use of Special Masters in Civil Litigation,” (ABA Section of Dispute Resolution, Spring Meeting, Minneapolis, April 11, 2019)
- Presentation in Support of ABA Resolution 100, adopting Guidelines on the Appointment and Use of Special Masters in Federal and State Court Civil Litigation, and Recommending the Amendment of Bankruptcy Rule 9031 (ABA House of Delegates, January 28, 2019)
- “Rethinking Our Approach to Civil Litigation: Proposed ABA Guidelines on the Use of Special Masters, ABA webinar. Scheduled October 11, 2018 at 1:00-2:30.
- “Rethinking Our Approach to Civil Litigation: A Proposed ABA Black Letter on Special Masters” (ABA Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, August 2018)
- The ABA Black Letter on Special Masters (Academy of Court-Appointed Masters Annual Meeting. New Orleans, LA) (April 14, 2018)
- “Change on the Horizon: The ABA’s Consideration of a Different Approach to Using Special Masters in Civil Litigation” (Spring Meeting of ABA Business Law Section, Orlando, FL, April 13, 2018).
- “Special Masters and How They Can Save You and Your Clients Time and Money” (District of Columbia Bar, March 20, 2018)
- “Special Masters: A Way of Bringing Alternatives into Judicial Dispute Resolution,” (ABA Dispute Resolution Section, Spring Meeting April 2017, San Francisco, CA)
- “Report on the ABA Judicial Division, Lawyers’ Conference Committee on Special Masters,” (Annual Meeting of the Academy of Court-Appointed Masters, March 31, 2017, San Diego, CA)
- “Special Masters,” (William B. Bryant American Inn of Court, Washington, DC, moderator, Oct. 18, 2016)
- “Strategies for In-House Counsel to Reduce Litigation Costs” (Strafford Continuing Education Webinar, Oct. 13, 2016)
- “Is There a Better Way? Strategic Use of Special Masters to Improve Judicial Efficiency and Reduce Litigation Cost” (ABA Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, August 2016)
- “Antitrust: The Business Case” (2010)
- Developments in U.S. Antitrust Law, London UK (2009)
- “The FTC v. Cephalon case: What does it mean for future brand-generic patent settlements?” ABA Section of Antitrust Law
- “A Dickensian View of Pharmaceutical Antitrust: Bleak House or Great Expectations?” Generic Drug Summit, Institute for International Research (June 19, 2008).
- “Overturning the SEC ‘Broker Dealer Rule’ – What to Expect Going Forward,” 2008 fi360 National Conference (May 8, 2008).

- “Should We Allow Brand Companies to Pay Generics to End Patent Challenges: James J. Kirkpatrick Meet Shana Alexander,” Law Seminars International, Seminar on Pharmaceutical Antitrust (April 24, 2008).
- “February In-House Counsel Antitrust Update,” ABA Section of Antitrust Law (March 3, 2008).
- “The SEC’s Regulation of Fee-Based Brokerage Accounts: A Case Study in Administrative Law,” ABA Administrative Law Conference (October 25-26, 2007).
- “A General Practitioner’s Guide: What to do if Your Client has an Antitrust or Intellectual Property Issue,” Ross, Dixon & Bell, LLP (April 24, 2007).
- “Paying Off Generics to Prevent Competition with Brand Name Drugs: Should it be Prohibited?” Testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee (January 17, 2007).
- Law Seminars International, Seminar on International Cartels (September 8, 2006).
- “In-House Counsel Antitrust Update,” ABA Antitrust Section, Corporate Counseling Committee (June 28, 2006).
- ABA Antitrust Health Care Conference (May 12, 2006).
- Telecommunications Program (ABA Antitrust Section, Spring Meeting, April 1, 2005).

OTHER DISTINCTIONS

Fellow of Academy of Court Appointed Masters (2020-present)

Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (2014-present)

Academy of Court Appointed Masters Civil Justice Award (2017 & 2019)

Had work featured in “The Master Plan, Judicial Division leads effort to increase the use of special masters,” ABA Journal, June 2019, at 86-87.

Member ABA Dispute Resolution Section Council, 2020-present

ABA Judicial Division Representative on ABA Dispute Resolution Section Advisory Committee, 2020-21

Member Executive Committee, ABA Judicial Division Lawyers Conference (Aug. 2017-present)

Co-chair and Chair ABA Judicial Division, Lawyers Conference Committee on Special Masters (2017-present)

Convener, ABA (Judicial Division and Litigation, Business Law, Dispute Resolution Torts Trial and Insurance, Antitrust and Intellectual Property Law Section) Special Masters Black Letter Working Group (2017-19)

Delegate Member 2017 District of Columbia Judicial and Bar Conference

Master William B. Bryant American Inn of Court, Washington, DC

Member Joint College Commercial Arbitrator/International Mediation Institute/Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution International Task Force on Mixed Mode Dispute Resolution Processes

(Non-Judge) Member American Judges Association

(Non-Judge) Member National Council of Juvenile and Family Law Judges,

Member National Association for Court Management

Selected for inclusion in Washington DC Super Lawyers (2012-17, 2022).

Americas Most Honored Lawyers 1% (2022)

Rated AV Preeminent

Named to Superlawyers’ Blue Ribbon Panel for evaluating DC lawyers (2013).

2007 “Lawyer of the Year,” Compliance Reporter

2007 “Lawdragon 3000” Leading Lawyer

SELECTED TRAINING

International Bridge Association Arbitration Training (Jan-Feb. 2023)
DC Multidoor Family Law Mediation, 7-day training program (Feb.-Mar. 2022)
Certificate for Training in Appellate Medication, DC Court of Appeals (May 2018)
Trained in Arbitration, American Arbitration Association (2018)
Certificate for Training in Mediation, The Center for Alternative Dispute Resolution (2017-18)
Fundamentals of Arbitration programs, College of Commercial Arbitrators (2015, 2016, 2017)
Certificate: Arbitrating in a Digital World, American College of e-Neutrals (December 2017)
Diploma in International Arbitration, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (Nov. 24, 2014)

BAR ADMISSIONS

District of Columbia Court of Appeals, December 1982
United States Supreme Court
United States Courts of Appeals for the 3rd, 4th, 5th, 7th, 9th, 10th and D.C. Circuits
United States District Courts for the District of Columbia and Colorado
United States Court of International Trade

OTHER MEMBERSHIPS

ABA, Judicial Division Lawyers Conference; Dispute Resolution and Litigation Sections

OTHER INTERESTS

Bridge (Diamond Life Master)
Classical and Show Music