

Alternative Dispute Resolution

Our Practice

Attorneys and their business clients frequently look to Metz Lewis to provide alternative approaches to resolution of business disputes. Alternative Dispute Resolution offers cost-effective options, and is often preferred to the time, expense, risk and headaches of litigation. As with all practice areas at the firm, the Alternative Dispute Resolution practice of Metz Lewis is led by attorneys with sound business judgment and experience who recognize the value of prompt, practical and business-based resolutions to commercial disputes.

With arbitration, our lawyers work to advance the goals of true arbitration and avoid "arbigation". Cases proceed expeditiously because we minimize motions, depositions and other discovery. We schedule prompt hearings and hold to that schedule. In mediation, we lead the parties to recognize their mutual business motivations and relationships which leads, in turn, to workable, lasting resolutions. When appropriate, we share our neutral evaluations of the issues to assist the parties in assessing the merits of their positions and the benefits of a negotiated solution.

Our Programs

A. Merger and Acquisition Dispute Resolution - Christopher Brodman

Metz Lewis has a unique program for resolving disputes which are specific to the merger and acquisition arena. Deal-breakers and impasses can arise at any time from initial proposals through post-closing performance. The road to closing is often bumpy, and the intervention of an informed neutral at a critical juncture can help a deal to happen that should, or foster ongoing cooperation instead of conflict.

Christopher Brodman has negotiated and implemented the sale or purchase of numerous businesses ranging from small two party transactions to complex, multiparty and multimillion dollar deals. His twenty-five years of experience allows him to recognize and understand the importance of each party's business position and seek a business solution to suit that position. For a flat fee, Chris can mediate, arbitrate or offer an independent evaluation. The approach, and the result, is all business.

B. Estate, Tax, and Corporate Governance Dispute Resolution – LeRoy Metz

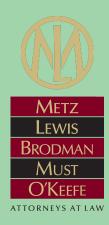
LeRoy Metz has served as an arbitrator or advocate in many complex estate, tax and corporate governance issues. LeRoy's skills have achieved sound business resolutions with the least tax impact possible. He brings to bear on each matter before him over forty years of business experience, and ready knowledge of the complex issues such disputes present. LeRoy's appreciation of the business concerns driving the business disputes produces reasoned and commercially sound solutions.

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C. Intellectual Property and Technology Dispute Resolution – Barry Friedman

Barry Friedman has served in both court-appointed and private dispute resolution. He has been a mediator, arbitrator and early neutral evaluator in numerous cases involving the ownership or infringement of intellectual property as well as commercial disputes which require an understanding of technology for prompt resolution. For example, Barry has arbitrated patent infringement claims as well as mediated claims involving troubled implementation of process control and enterprise resource planning systems. Barry strives to assure that his conflict resolution services are a streamlined and cost-effective method to resolve those disputes, which often involve critical and complex business concerns beyond the essence of the claim at issue. Barry understands and appreciates that intellectual property rights are often fundamental to the growth and success of a business, and that resolution of competing claims to them must be based on a comprehensive understanding of these business issues.

D. Commercial Dispute Resolution – Steven Petrikis

As a commercial litigator for more than thirty- five years, Steven Petrikis is well aware of the money, time and risk litigation involves, and the importance of alternative dispute resolution. At the very beginning of arbitrations, Steve engages the parties to develop a process which will lead to prompt hearings and fair determinations with only the necessary minimum of procedural and discovery issues. His mediation style is both facilitative and direct. Neutral evaluations of the parties' positions are provided to assist in reaching informed agreement. Steve has handled virtually all types of business disputes, including breach of contract, breach of warranty, shareholder disputes, restrictive covenants, employment matters, lender liability, oil and gas claims, property claims, insurance coverages, executive compensation issues and other claims in the business context.

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