

## **Peter W. Benner, Esquire**

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Mr. Benner practiced for 28 years at Shipman & Goodwin, LLP in Hartford Connecticut (23 as a partner) in the area of commercial litigation handling multiparty disputes with complex factual and legal issues both in Connecticut and in courts throughout the country. He served for 10 years, through 2000, as Chair of the firm's Commercial Litigation Practice Group and for four years, through 2003, on the Management Committee. His areas of practice, representing regularly either plaintiffs or defendants, included healthcare, business, financial, real estate, bankruptcy, covenants not to compete, employment, franchise, antitrust and unfair trade practice matters. His clients included financial institutions, investment companies, real estate development companies, health care providers and insurers and managed care organizations.

Over the past several years Mr. Benner has become increasingly involved in alternative dispute resolution in his litigation practice and as a mediator and arbitrator. So much so that he decided to focus his time and efforts entirely in that field and start his own dispute resolution practice as of January 1, 2005. Mr. Benner will assist attorneys and their clients by providing services as an independent neutral, bringing to the process his commitment to solving problems without protracted litigation, as well as his experience and well-established ability to find cost-effective means of resolving conflicts.

Mr. Benner serves as Chair of the Federal Grievance Committee of the U.S. District Court for District of Connecticut. He also has been a Special Master for the U.S. District Court for District of Connecticut since 1997 and Chair of a Connecticut Bar Association arbitration panel for attorney fee disputes since 1996. Mr. Benner currently is the Chair of the Section of Alternative Dispute Resolution of the Connecticut Bar Association and a James W. Cooper Fellow of the Connecticut Bar Foundation.

In addition to his years of experience, Mr. Benner has received substantial and in-depth dispute resolution training, including the American Arbitration Association Commercial Arbitrator I and II Training; Harvard Law School, Program on Negotiation, Mindfulness in Mediation, June 2004; AAA Arbitrator Roundtable: The Revised Commercial Arbitrator Code of Ethics, February 2004; Center for Mediation in Law "Contracting" in Mediation, Fall, 2003; Center for Mediation in Law, Intensive Mediation Training Program, December 2002.

Mr. Benner was admitted to practice in Connecticut in 1976 and is admitted to the U.S. District Courts for the Districts of Connecticut and Vermont and the U.S. Courts of Appeals for the Second, Third, and Fourth Circuits.

He is active in the American Bar Association Dispute Resolution Section and Litigation Section (ADR Committee; editor, Conflict Management newsletter) and the Connecticut Bar Association Federal Practice Section, as well as the national Association for Conflict Resolution and its New England Chapter. He is a member of the CBA Commercial Law and Bankruptcy Section and the Hartford County Bar Association.

Mr. Benner received his undergraduate degree from Princeton University (Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, with high honors) and his law degree from Georgetown University, where he served on the Executive Board of the Georgetown Law Journal.