

RESOLUTE

DISPUTE RESOLUTION NATIONWIDE



Hon. Mary Ellen Coster Williams (Ret)

Mediator, Arbitrator and Referee/Special Master

Case Manager

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The Honorable Mary Ellen Coster Williams is a former Federal Judge, with a national mediation and arbitration practice. Based in Washington, DC and New York, Judge Williams also serves as a special master and discovery referee in complex litigated disputes. Judge Williams served on The United States Court of Federal Claims for 20 years, before her retirement in July of 2023. During this time, in addition to serving as a trial judge, she successfully mediated a myriad of matters in front of the court including:

- Contract Disputes
- Intellectual Property Disputes
- Construction Disputes
- Fifth Amendment Taking Claims
- Statutory, Regulatory and Constitutional Claims
- Tax Disputes
- Monetary Claims against the United States
- Vaccine Injury Claims

While on the bench, Judge Williams had a reputation as a very effective mediator. She mediated matters across the United States, assisting attorneys and their clients in resolving matters pending before other judges on the court. She was one of the most requested mediators at the court. Prior to her federal judgeship, Judge Williams served on the Board of Contract Appeals for 13 years where she adjudicated and mediated contract and construction claims.

Representative Matters

- Appellate
- Banking/Finance
- Class Actions
- Classified Cases
- Construction
- Contracts
- Corporate Investigations & Monitoring
- Emerging Technology/Artificial Intelligence
- Employment
- Energy, Oil, Gas & Water Rights
- Environmental
- Equal Pay Act
- False Claims
- Federal Statutory/Regulatory
- Fifth Amendment Takings
- Fraud
- Intellectual Property
- Medical Malpractice
- Patent Infringement
- Product Liability
- Real Estate
- Tax
- Trade Secrets
- Transportation
- Vaccine injury
- Wrongful Death

Judicial Experience

July 2003 – July 2023:

Judge, United States Court of Federal Claims, Washington, D.C.

March 1989 – July 2003

Administrative Judge, Board of Contract Appeals, General Services Administration, Washington, D.C.

Notable Cases

Nova Group/Tutor-Saliba v. United States, ___ Fed. Cl. ___, 2022 WL 815826 (Feb. 28, 2022) (Construction)

Authentic Apparel v. United States, 146 Fed. Cl. 147 (2019), aff'd, 989 F.3d 1008 (Fed. Cir. 2021) (Licensing Agreement; Trademark)

Gentex Corp. v. United States, 58 Fed. Cl. 634 (2003); Texas Bio- & Agro-Defense Consortium v. United States, 87 Fed. Cl. 798 (2009) (Government Contracts/Bid Protests)

Afghan American Army Services Corp. v. United States, 106 Fed. Cl. 714 (2012); 106 Fed. Cl. 751 (2012); Guzar Mierbachakot Transportation v. United States, 104 Fed. Cl. 53 (2012) (Classified Bid Protests)

SGS-92-X003 v. United States, 74 Fed. Cl. 637 (2007); SGS-92-X003 v. United States, 85 Fed. Cl. 678 (2009); SGS-92-X003 v. United States, 118 Fed. Cl. 492 (2014) (Breach of Contract)

Jade Trading, LLC v. United States, 98 Fed. Cl. 453 (2011); Jade Trading, LLC ex rel. Ervin v. United States, 81 Fed. Cl. 173 (2009); Jade Trading, LLC v. United States, 80 Fed. Cl. 11 (2007), aff'd in part, vacated in part, rev'd in part by Jade Trading LLC ex rel. Ervin v. United States, 598 F.3d 1372 (Fed. Cir. 2010); Jade Trading, LLC v. United States, 67 Fed. Cl. 608 (2005); Jade Trading, LLC v. United States, 65 Fed. Cl. 641 (2005); Jade Trading, LLC v. United States, 65 Fed. Cl. 487 (2005); Jade Trading, LLC v. United States, 65 Fed. Cl. 443 (2005); Jade Trading, LLC v. United States, 65 Fed. Cl. 188 (2005); Jade Trading, LLC v. United States, 64 Fed. Cl. 85 (2005); Jade Trading, LLC v. United States, 63 Fed. Cl. 143 (2004); Jade Trading, LLC v. United States, 60 Fed. Cl. 558 (2004) (Tax)

American Innotek, Inc. v. United States, 129 Fed. Cl. 444 (2016); American Innotek, Inc. v. United States, 128 Fed. Cl. 135 (2016), aff'd, 706 Fed. App'x 686 (Fed. Cir. 2017) (Mem.); American Innotek, Inc. v. United States, 126 Fed. Cl. 468 (2016); American Innotek, Inc. v. United States, 113 Fed. Cl. 668 (2013) (Patent Infringement)

Ross-Hime Designs, Inc. v. United States, 126 Fed. Cl. 299 (2016) (Patent Infringement – Claim Construction)

Rogers v. United States, 107 Fed. Cl. 387 (2012), aff'd 814 F.3d 1299 (Fed. Cir. 2015); Rogers v. United States, 104 Fed. Cl. 142 (2012); Rogers v. United States, 101 Fed. Cl. 287 (2011); Rogers v. United States, 95 Fed. Cl. 513 (2010); Rogers v. United States, 93 Fed. Cl. 607 (2010), aff'd, 814 F.3d 1299 (Fed. Cir. 2015); Rogers v. United States, 90 Fed. Cl. 418 (2009) (Fifth Amendment Taking)

Alimanestianu v. United States, 130 Fed. Cl. 137 (2016), aff'd, 888 F.3d 1374 (Fed. Cir. 2018) (Fifth Amendment Taking)

Blue Lake Forest Products, Inc., et al., Fed. Cl. (2007) (discovery; attorney-client privilege; deliberative-process privilege; at-issue waiver; subject matter waiver; scope of waiver; work product doctrine)

Numerous Mediations involving contracts, statutory and regulatory interpretation, Fifth Amendment takings, property law, construction, intellectual property, vaccine injury compensation and attorneys fees

Other Professional Experience

Mediator and Arbitrator, National Commercial Panel, Resolute Systems, LLC

Partner, Janis, Schuelke and Wechsler, Washington, D.C.

Assistant U.S. Attorney, Department of Justice, Civil Division, Washington, D.C.

Associate, Schnader, Harrison, Segal and Lewis, Washington, D.C.

Associate, Fulbright and Jaworski, Washington, D.C.

Honors & Awards

- United States Court of Federal Claims – Award for Outstanding Service to the Court, 2018
- United States Court of Federal Claims – Champion of Justice Award, 2018
- Duke Law School – Law Alumni Association’s Charles S. Murphy Award for Achievement in Public Service, 2017
- University Club Renaissance Award, 2009

Publications

The United States Court of Federal Claims: A Brief Overview of the “People’s Court”, Juriste (2020)

Intellectual Property Suits in the United States Court of Federal Claims, 10 No. 1 *Landslide* 30 (2017)

2007 Government Contract Decisions of the Federal Circuit, 57 *Am. U. L. Rev.* 1075 (2008)

Education

Duke University School of Law, J.D. 1977

- Editorial Board, *Duke Law Journal*, 1976-77
- Staff Member, *Duke Law Journal*, 1975-76
- Law Clerk, University Counsel, C.L. Haslam
- Treasurer, Women Law Students
- Research Assistant, Prof. Joel Fleishman (Administrative Law)

Catholic University, B.A./M.A. combined degree, 1974 – 75

- B.A. Greek and Latin, summa cum laude, M.A. Latin
- Phi Beta Kappa
- President’s Award to Outstanding Undergraduate Woman (highest university award for leadership and scholarship)

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