



Marie E. Lihotz

Of Counsel

Alternative Dispute Resolution /
Matrimonial & Family Law

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Overview

The Honorable Marie E. Lihotz joined Archer as Of Counsel after serving twenty years as a member of the New Jersey Judiciary, including more than eleven years in the Appellate Division. Judge Lihotz concentrates her practice in resolving legal disputes through mediation and arbitration, including family, business, estate, employment, discrimination (civil rights and LAD), whistleblower (CEPA), civil sexual abuse suits, as well as appellate arbitration matters. She is a member of the American Arbitration Association Commercial and Employment Roster of Arbitrators, an approved Rule 4:21A arbitrator, a member of the roster of Bankruptcy mediators, and completed the requirements for a Rule 1:40 civil mediator. She is a fellow of the National Academy of Distinguished Neutrals and the New Jersey Association of Professional Mediators. Further, Judge Lihotz consults on trial and appellate presentations.

Judge Lihotz enjoys working with clients and recognizes the need to give a voice to their concerns to resolve legal issues. She understands the many sides of a problem and offers creative resolutions. Clients appreciate that she is an active listener and asks pointed questions to unwind issues, exposing other concerns not readily recognized by one party. She also recognizes the viability of certain legal challenges, which would lead to success or failure in a courtroom. These skills aid resolution.

Judge Lihotz has settled multimillion dollar civil sexual abuse matters, employment discrimination and whistleblower challenges, complex matrimonial matters involving intricate business interests, and disputes between Estate beneficiaries. She has arbitrated commercial lease determinations, whistleblower and LAD challenges, matrimonial custody and divorce matters, and consumer fraud suits. Appellate consultations include assisting parties in brief drafting, presenting legal arguments in briefs and during oral argument.

Judge Lihotz was originally appointed to the Tax Court of New Jersey by Governor Christine Todd Whitman. During her judicial career, she served as Presiding Judge of the Family Part, Burlington Vicinage and, as one of the Appellate Division's senior judges, the Presiding Judge of Part B. During her tenure in the Appellate Division, Judge Lihotz authored more than 120 published opinions.

In arbitrations, clients describe Judge Lihotz as objective, fair, direct and respectful. They appreciate her well-reasoned awards. For appellate consulting, Judge Lihotz writes well and creates concise and persuasive presentations.

Judge Lihotz led the Supreme Court's Family Practice Committee for a decade, served as a member and instructor for judicial education. Judge Lihotz is past president and a founding member of the Thomas S. Forkin Family Law American Inn of Court. During her term as president, the Inn was first recognized by the National AIC in the Circle of Excellence and later achieving the Platinum Level of excellence in the requisite core competencies. She also is a member of the Justice Marie L. Garibaldi ADR Inn of Court.

In private practice prior to joining the judiciary, Judge Lihotz focused on commercial and family law litigation, as well as corporate, tax, estate planning/administration, and bankruptcy matters. She served as a commercial arbitrator and a bankruptcy mediator.

As an attorney and a judge, Judge Lihotz has always participated in legal education. In addition to lecturing for NJICLE, the NJSBA, county bar associations, the NJAPM, the Administrative Office of the Courts, and the Judiciary, she participated as an adjunct lecturer for Rutgers University Law School, Camden.

Judge Lihotz earned her L.L.M. (taxation) from New York University School of Law and her J.D. from Villanova University School of Law. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Delaware.

Professional and Community Involvement

- Member, National Academy of Distinguished Neutrals
- Member, AAA's Roster of Arbitrators
- Trustee, Burlington County Bar Association, 2017-present
- Vice President of Board of Directors, Philharmonic of Southern New Jersey
- Past President and Founding Member, Thomas S. Forkin Family Law American Inn of Court
- Member, Justice Marie L. Garibaldi ADR American Inn of Court
- Member, NJSBA Family Law Executive Committee (FLEC) (2018-2019)
- Member, NJSBA Judicial Administration Committee (2018-2019)
- Member, New Jersey State Bar Association

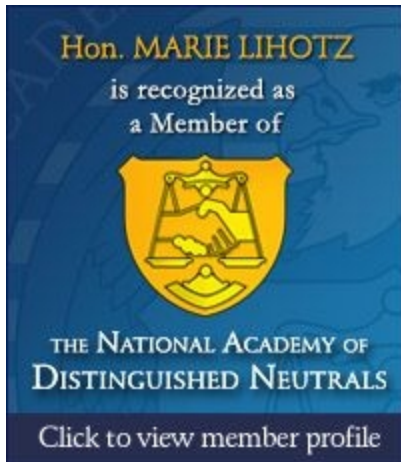


- Member, Burlington County Bar Association, Co-Chair of Professionalism Committee, Member of Diversity Leadership Committee
- Member, Camden County Bar Association, Co-Chair of Debtor-Creditor Relations and Family Law Committees, Former Trustee (1995-1997)
- Chair, Supreme Court Committee on Family Practice
- Member/Instructor, Supreme Court Judicial Education Committee and Co-Chair of the New Judges' Orientation Subcommittee
- Chair Judicial Education Committee of the Conference of Family Presiding Judges
- Member, Supreme Court Internet Technology Committee and E-filing Subcommittee
- Member, Supreme Court Public Access to Court Records Committee and Supreme Court Public Access Working Group
- Member, Supreme Court Committee on Women in the Courts
- Organizer, Rutgers Pro Bono Domestic Violence Clinic, Rutgers Law School, Camden, NJ (1996)
- Original Volunteer, Rutgers Pro Bono Bankruptcy Clinic, Rutgers Law School, Camden
- Pro Bono Consultant for Members of N.J. Women's Opportunity Center (1988-1996)
- Member, National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (1997-2006)
- Founder, Moorestown Youth Softball Association, Inc.



JUSTICE MARIE L. GARIBALDI
AMERICAN INN OF COURT
FOR ALTERNATIVE
DISPUTE RESOLUTION





Select Articles

- “Should a Financially Dependent Child Who Rejects One Parent Still Be Emancipated?” *New Jersey Law Journal* (February 2025)
- “Three’s Company: Can a Nonsignatory to an Arbitration Agreement Compel or Be Compelled to Arbitrate?” *New Jersey Law Journal* (August 2024)
- “Artificial Intelligence: Unlimited Potential or Too Good to be True? Positives and Pitfalls for Lawyers,” *New Jersey Family Lawyer* (June 2024)
- “50 (or More) Ways to Show (S)he’s More Than a Lover: Facts to Prove Cohabitation,” *New Jersey Law Journal* (March 2021)
- “It’s Not too Late to Settle: Meet CASP,” *New Jersey Law Journal* (March 2020)
- “Appellate Answers: Do the Judges Really Write All These Opinions?” *New Jersey Law Journal* (January 2020)
- “Opinion Publication,” *New Jersey Law Journal* (December 2019)
- “Panel of Two Judges vs. Panel of Three Judges,” *New Jersey Law Journal* (December 2019)
- “Appellate Answers on Motion Practice,” *New Jersey Law Journal* (November 2019)
- “Should I Be Worried If ...,” *New Jersey Law Journal* (September 2019)
- “The Comma That Can Change the Law: Three Cheers for the Oxford Comma,” *New Jersey Lawyer* (August 2019)
- “Carving A Path Toward Final Resolution Using Mediation or Arbitration,” *New Jersey Lawyer* (June 2018)
- “An Attorney’s Guide to Bolstering a Trial Record Against Appeal,” *New Jersey Lawyer* (February, 2018)



Select Speaking Engagements and Seminars

- “Divorce Mediation,” New Jersey Association of Professional Mediators Annual Fall Conference (November 2024)
- “Establishing a Prima Facie Case of Cohabitation,” NJICLE (March 2023)
- “The Truth About Lying,” Thomas S. Forkin Family Law American Inn of Court
- “Hot Tips on Equitable Distribution,” NJSBA Annual Meeting (2019)
- “Appalling Arbitration Awards,” NJSBA Annual Meeting (2019)
- “I thought we settled this! — Enforceable and Unenforceable Settlement Agreements,” NJICLE Family Law Symposium (January 2019)
- “Getting to the Finish Line: Settlement of Difficult Family Law Cases,” NJICLE (November and August 2018)
- “Alimony Issues,” NJICLE (November and August 2018)
- “Key Provisions in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act Every Family Lawyer Should Know,” Family Law Symposium (2018)
- “Presumptive 50-50 Custody: Does it Meet the Best Interest of the Child?” Family Law Symposium (2018)
- “Alimony: Is there a Duty to Mitigate,” NJSBA Annual Meeting (May 2018)
- “New Tax Code Impacts Family Law,” NJSBA Annual Meeting (May 2018)
- “**The Intersection of Estate and Family Law**,” 6th Annual Estate Litigation Seminar (May 2018)
- “Best Practices in Mediation-Lessons from the Masters,” CCBA (May 2018)
- “Proving the Best Interests of the Child,” American Academy Matrimonial Lawyers Annual Conference (April 2018)
- “Relocation After *Bisbing v. Bisbing*,” AAML Annual Conference (April 2018)
- “Ethics Dilemmas Involving Social Media,” BCBA CLE Fest (2018)
- “Advanced Appellate Advocacy,” BCBA CLE Fest (2018)

In the News

- “**Mediation Roundtable**,” SJ Magazine (6/27/24)
- “**Archer Leaders Talk Growing Use of ADR in NJ Family Law**,” Law360 (3/27/23)
- “**‘It’s Part of the Judicial System Now’: Retired Judges Say ADR Is Here to Stay**,” NJ Law Journal (11/16/22)
- “Justice For All,” RVN TV (6/11/20)



Credentials

Education

- New York University School of Law, LLM, Taxation
- Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law, JD
- University of Delaware, BA

Admissions

- New Jersey

Offices

- Voorhees, NJ

Areas of Focus

Practice

- Alternative Dispute Resolution
- Appellate Practice
- Matrimonial & Family Law
- NJ Local Court Practice

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