



**JAMES W. BORKOWSKI, ESQ.**

Hearing Officer, Westchester County

A trial attorney for over 33 years, James Borkowski is known as a personable straight shooter, with a high success rate resolving construction cases, premises liability cases, general liability, and automobile claims.

With extensive experience representing both plaintiffs and defendants, Mr. Borkowski has the perspective to fairly analyze lawsuits from both sides and appreciates the concerns and goals of all involved. It is the highest form of compliment that many of his adversaries, both plaintiffs and defendants, now use him as a neutral at NAM.

- “Thank you for a great settlement day. We settled nine out of nine cases. You are the best of the best.” – Plaintiff Attorney
- “It was a pleasure working with you. My client and I appreciated your hard work to get this case resolved.” *Plaintiff Attorney*
- “Great to work with you on this case. On to the next one.” *Defense Attorney*
- “You are the best to work with.” *Insurance Company, Senior Claims Representative*

For the fourth year in a row, Jim was recognized by his peers as a Top Ten neutral in New York State in the 2023 *New York Law Journal* "Best Of" survey. He earned an "AV Distinguished" rating from Martindale-Hubbell, a distinction given only to those who possess the "highest level of professional excellence in legal ability and legal ethics."

As a practitioner, Mr. Borkowski represented insurance carriers, corporations, and individuals in personal injury, construction, labor law, premises liability, property damage, and automobile claims. He tried over 100 jury trials in the Metro New York area. Recognizing the risk mitigation and cost savings for clients, Jim spent many years of his career negotiating settlements through private mediation.

Prior to joining NAM, he served as a Town Justice in the Town of Southeast, one of the busiest Justice Courts in New York State. In that role, for 11 years (1998 – 2009), he presided over jury and non-jury trials and facilitated the settlement of hundreds of civil and commercial cases.

Mr. Borkowski began his career in 1987 as an Assistant District Attorney in the Nassau County District Attorney's Office, where he litigated trials, pre-trial hearings, and presented cases before grand juries. Subsequently, in the early nineties, he was an associate for a prominent New York City law firm, where he was a member of a special litigation team investigating liability theories for the Lockerbie Air Disaster (Flight 103). He also served as an attorney for the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) for personal injury actions, and litigated commercial, insurance, and foreclosure matters for the firm.

Mr. Borkowski is available to arbitrate and mediate cases throughout the New York Metro area.

## AREAS of EXPERIENCE

- Automobile
- Commercial
- Construction
- General Liability
- Labor Law
- Litigation
- Municipal Law
- Negligence
- Premises Liability
- Product Liability
- Property Damage

## LECTURES and PUBLICATIONS

- Author, *Elevating Your ADR Game – Useful Insights and Perspectives (Part 4)*, NYLJ column, focusing on the book, “Ambassador for Peace – How Theodore Roosevelt Won the Nobel Peace Prize,” New York Law Journal, 2023
- Co-Presenter, *Your Side, Your Story: The Advantage of Being Heard at Mediation*, webinar presented as part of the Celesq AttorneysED Center in partnership with Thomas Reuters, 2023
- Co-Presenter, *Inside the Mind of the Mediator: Avoiding Impasse and Maximizing Outcomes in Mediation*, webinar presented as part of the Bridge the-Gap program to the New York City Bar Association, 2023
- Author, *Elevating Your ADR Game – Useful Insights and Perspectives (Part 3)*, NYLJ column, focusing on the book, “Mastering Mediation: 50 Essential Tools for the Advanced Practitioner,” New York Law Journal, 2022
- Author, *Elevating Your ADR Game – Useful Insights and Perspectives (Part 2)*, NYLJ column, focusing on the book, “High Conflict - Why We Get Trapped and How We Get Out,” New York Law Journal, 2022
- Speaker, *Navigating the New Normal for Alternative Dispute Resolution for Insurance Claims*, presented to Atlanta CPCU I-Day, 2022
- Panel Member, *What Happens in the Breakout Room, The Secrets of Multi-Party Defendant Labor Law Mediations*, webinar presented to New York State Academy of Trial Lawyers, 2022
- Co-presenter, *Putting Your Best Proof Forward: Arbitration and Mediation Submissions*, webinar presented to New York State Academy of Trial Lawyers, 2022
- Panel Member, *Inside the Mind of the Mediator: Avoiding Impasse and Maximizing Outcomes in Mediation*, New York City Bar, Bridge-the-Gap webinar, 2022
- Author, *Elevating Your ADR Game – Useful Insights and Perspectives (Part 1)*, NYLJ column, focusing on the book, “Never Split the Difference: Negotiating as if Your Life Depended on It,” New York Law Journal, 2021
- Panel Member, *Navigating the Best Practices of Mediation in the Remote World*, DRI 2021 Annual Meeting
- Panel Member, *Inside the Mind of a Mediator - Avoiding Impasse and Maximizing Outcomes in Mediation*, webinar presented as part of the Bridge-the-Gap program to the New York City Bar, 2021
- Panel Member, *Resolving Coverage Disputes in Mediation*, webinar presented to the New York State Academy of Trial Lawyers, 2020
- Speaker, *Tips and Techniques for Ensuring Impactful and Successful Virtual Mediations*, webinar presented to United Educators, 2020
- Speaker, *The Benefits of Early Mediation: The Path Least Taken Requires Commitment*, webinar presented to Law.com, 2020
- Author, *Video Mediations: The Future of Alternative Dispute Resolution*, New York Law Journal, 2020

- Panel Member, *Inside the Mind of a Mediator: Avoiding Impasse and Maximizing Outcomes in Mediations*, presented to the New York City Bar, 2020
- Certified Criminal Justice Instructor, Westchester County Police Academy

## HONORS and AWARDS

- *New York Law Journal* "Best Of" survey, Top Ten - Best Individual Arbitrator Category, 2020-2023
- "AV-Distinguished" rating, Martindale-Hubbell

## LEGAL EXPERIENCE

- Of Counsel, Keane & Beane, P.C., 2003-Present
- Town Justice, Town of Southeast, 1998-2009
- Of Counsel, Bleakley Platt & Schmidt, Litigation Department, 1998-2003
- Partner, Stephens Hogan Rossi & Borkowski, 1994-1998
- Associate, Windels, Marx, Davies & Ives, Litigation Department, 1989-1994
- Assistant District Attorney, Nassau County, 1987-1989

## PROFESSIONAL LICENSES and ADMISSIONS

- New York State Bar
- United States Court of Appeals, Second Circuit
- United States Supreme Court
- United States District Court, Northern District of New York
- United States District Court, Eastern District of New York
- United States District Court, Southern District of New York

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS and ASSOCIATIONS

- Member, New York State Bar Association
- Member, New York State Magistrates Association
- Past President, Putnam County Magistrates Association
- Participant, The Hudson River Swim for Life across the Hudson River

## EDUCATION

- Boston University School of Law, J.D.
- State University of New York at Albany, B.A., *magna cum laude*,
  - Phi Alpha Theta, History Honor Society