

# Michael J. Betts

Michael J. Betts LLC  
Betts Dispute Resolution Services  
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## PROFILE

Mr. Betts is an experienced alternative dispute resolution neutral, having served as a mediator or arbitrator in numerous cases. Mr. Betts is on the roster of ADR Neutrals for the United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania. Mr. Betts also has been designated by that Court as an approved E-Discovery Special Master and Mediator. In addition, Mr. Betts is on the American Arbitration Association's national arbitrator panel for commercial and consumer cases. He also has been certified by FINRA Dispute Resolution and National Arbitration and Mediation as an approved arbitrator and mediator.

In providing services as an ADR neutral, Mr. Betts draws on over forty years of experience in handling a wide range of matters as litigation counsel, including complex commercial cases and business disputes, securities litigation (including FINRA arbitrations), securities regulatory matters (including FINRA investigations), banking litigation, class actions, consumer litigation, fiduciary litigation, insurance litigation, and trade secret/non-compete litigation. Mr. Betts has a breadth of experience and perspectives, having handled litigation matters for business clients as well as individuals as a litigation partner in a large law firm, a litigation partner in a boutique law firm, as Senior Counsel - Litigation within the Legal Department of PNC Bank, and as a Principal of Post & Schell, P.C.

## EXPERIENCE

**Michael J. Betts LLC**  
**Betts Dispute Resolution Services**  
**Managing Member**  
**April 2018 to Present**

From April 2018 to the present, Mr. Betts has been the principal of Michael J. Betts LLC and Betts Dispute Resolution Services. Mr. Betts primarily provides arbitration, mediation and other dispute resolution services to parties and their counsel in pending and threatened litigation matters, principally relating to commercial and business disputes, securities/investment-related claims, consumer litigation, insurance litigation and various other types of claims. Mr. Betts also serves as counsel in civil litigation matters, with an emphasis on commercial litigation, securities litigation, trade secret litigation and litigation related to employment restrictive covenants (non-compete and non-solicitation provisions).

**Post & Schell, P.C.**

**Principal**

**April 2016 to April 2018**

From April 2016 to April 2018 Mr. Betts was a Principal of Post & Schell, P.C., practicing in the firm's Pittsburgh office and within its Business Law & Litigation Department. Mr. Betts's practice at Post & Schell, P.C. was concentrated in commercial litigation and business disputes, securities litigation and enforcement matters, trade secret litigation and litigation related to employment restrictive covenants (non-compete and non-solicitation provisions). In addition, during his tenure at Post & Schell, Mr. Betts devoted a significant portion of his practice to alternative dispute resolution, including serving as mediator for cases pending in the United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania and other courts.

**Betts Law Office LLC**

**Betts Mediation & Dispute Resolution LLC**

**Managing Member**

**May 2013 to April 2016**

From May 2013 to April 2016 Mr. Betts was the principal of Betts Law Office LLC and Betts Mediation & Dispute Resolution LLC. The former firm handled a range of litigation matters, with an emphasis on commercial litigation, securities litigation and enforcement matters, trade secret litigation and litigation related to employment restrictive covenants (non-compete and non-solicitation provisions). Through the firm of Betts Mediation & Dispute Resolution Services, LLC, Mr. Betts provided mediation and other dispute resolution services to parties and their counsel in pending and threatened litigation matters, primarily relating to commercial and business disputes and securities (FINRA) matters.

**PNC Bank, National Association - Legal Department**

**Senior Counsel - Litigation**

**October 2009 to May 2013**

From October 2009 to May 2013, Mr. Betts managed litigation matters involving PNC and certain of its affiliates, including PNC Investments LLC. Among the types of matters handled by Mr. Betts in this role were consumer class actions, FINRA customer arbitrations, wealth management and fiduciary litigation, and real estate litigation. Mr. Betts had direct responsibility for the evaluation and handling, with PNC's outside counsel, of numerous lawsuits in federal and state courts, and in arbitration forums, as well as the handling of various governmental agency enforcement matters and investigations.

**Betts, Hull & Klodowski LLC (and predecessor firms)**

**Member/Principal**

**April 1994 to October 2009**

Mr. Betts represented business and individual clients in a broad range of litigation matters, with a concentration in commercial and business litigation, securities litigation and arbitrations and employment litigation. Mr. Betts prepared cases for trial, and tried cases, in state and federal courts and before FINRA and other arbitration panels.

**Reed Smith Shaw & McClay (Reed Smith LLP)**  
**Litigation Partner/Associate**  
**September 1980 to April 1994**

Mr. Betts was a litigation associate with Reed Smith from 1980 to 1988 and was a partner in the firm's Litigation Group from 1989 to April 1994. At Reed Smith, Mr. Betts represented clients in complex litigation matters, including class actions, securities litigation and consumer litigation.

**EDUCATION**

**University of Pittsburgh School of Law - J.D. (1980)**

Law Review, Cum Laude

**Dickinson College - B.A. (1977)**

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS AND CERTIFICATIONS**

Admitted to Practice before the Supreme Court of the United States, United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania and Pennsylvania state courts

Allegheny County Bar Association

American Arbitration Association Roster of Arbitrators - Commercial and Consumer Cases

Federal Bar Association

- Alternative Dispute Resolution Section
- Federal Litigation Section

Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) Dispute Resolution - Approved Arbitrator (Chairperson qualified) and Mediator

Mediation Council of Western Pennsylvania

National Arbitration and Mediation - Approved Arbitrator and Mediator, Pennsylvania

United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania - on Court's Roster of Neutrals (Mediator; Arbitrator; Early Neutral Evaluator) and Roster of Approved E-Discovery Special Masters and Mediators

**TRAINING AND CONTINUING EDUCATION - ARBITRATION, MEDIATION AND ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

American Arbitration Association, "Panelist Safety and Security" (January 2024)

American Arbitration Association, "Process Essentials for AAA Arbitrators" (October 2022)

Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) Dispute Resolution - Chairperson Training and Certification (July 2022)

American Arbitration Association, “Impartiality: Do You Know Where Your Biases Are?” (December 2021)

American Arbitration Association, Best Practices for Arbitrators in Expedited/Fast Track Arbitrations (January 2021)

Pennsylvania Bar Institute, “Virtual Mediations and Depositions: Strategies to Promote Civility and Best Practices” (December 2020)

Pennsylvania Bar Institute, “e-Discovery Update” (December 2020)

American Arbitration Association, “Cyber Security: A Shared Responsibility” (November 2020)

Pennsylvania Bar Institute, “Current Issues in e-Discovery” (December 2019)

American Arbitration Association, “Case Finances: What Arbitrators Need to Know” (November 2019)

Pennsylvania Bar Institute, “Advanced Contract Damages and Remedies” (December 2018)

Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) Dispute Resolution - Basic Arbitrator Training (June 2018)

Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) Dispute Resolution - Expungement Training (June 2018)

American Arbitration Association, “Arbitration Fundamentals and Best Practices for New AAA Arbitrators” (April 18-19, 2018)

American Arbitration Association, “Arbitration Awards - Safeguarding, Deciding and Writing Awards” (February 10, 2018)

ABA Section of Dispute Resolution, “What is the Relevance of the Joint Opening Session in Today’s Commercial Mediation Process?” (February 3, 2015)

ABA Section of Dispute Resolution, “How to Prepare for Mediation” (January 13, 2015)

ABA Section of Dispute Resolution, “The Successful Road to Settlement: The Intersect of Mediation and the Judicial Settlement Conference” (January 12, 2015)

Advanced E-Discovery Institute, Georgetown Law Continuing Legal Education (November 20-21, 2014)

“E-Discovery Special Masters and Mediators Orientation Program — United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania (September 2014)

“Current Issues Involving ADR in the Western District of Pennsylvania” — Federal Bar Association, Western Pennsylvania Chapter (February 2014)

“Mediation Concepts” — 5-hour continuing legal education mediation training approved by California State Bar (ID# 14119) (July 2013)

Center for Dispute Resolution, Capital University Law School — “Intensive Mediation” Training: 5-day course in negotiation and mediation skills (June 2013)

Pennsylvania Bar Institute, “Breaking Impasse in Alternative Dispute Resolution” (December 2011)

### **CHARITABLE/COMMUNITY**

First Tee, Pittsburgh - Past volunteer for junior clinics

Pennsylvania Golf Association - Member of Executive Committee and Tournament Rules Official

Pro Bono representation of college and professional athletes re licensing and NIL issues

West Penn Golf Association - Member of Board of Directors; Chairman of Championship Committee; Tournament Rules Official