



Michael S. Meisel

Member

TEL: 201-525-6222

MOBILE: 201-314-0841

FAX: 201-489-7055

mmeisel@coleschotz.com

As head of the firm's ADR practice and co-chair of its Litigation Department, Mike is known as one of the nation's top trial lawyers and most effective mediators and arbitrators. He specializes in commercial disputes, including bankruptcy/workouts, shareholder, surety and insurance, directors and officers liability, construction, and estates and trusts. With a litigation style described as versatile, creative, practical, tough and persistent, Mike has the ability to persuade judges, juries and opponents. The same skills and persistence explain Mike's enviable record of resolving cases in mediation and arbitration. An effective problem-solver who consistently produces results, *Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business* praises Mike for his "brilliant courtroom advocacy."

A past chairman of the New Jersey State Bar Association Bankruptcy Law Section, *Best Lawyers in America* recognizes Mike as a leading lawyer for "Bet the Company" litigation, bankruptcy litigation, commercial litigation, construction litigation, and appeals. In addition to qualifying and serving in numerous cases under federal and state mediation and arbitration panel programs, Mike completed the American Arbitration Association's 40-hour course for *Essential Mediation Skills* and frequently serves as a private mediator and arbitrator in business disputes.

Mike's noteworthy cases include serving as the lead litigator and special advisor to the New Jersey insurance commissioner and attorney general in the \$12 billion Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Company reorganization, the largest insurer insolvency in U.S. history. He is co-editor of West's New Jersey Practice volume on Insolvency in the federal and state courts.

Respected for his high-quality legal and appellate work, Mike has been selected for inclusion in the New Jersey "Top 100" *Super Lawyers* list, as well as the New York Area's *Best Lawyers* for commercial litigation and appellate law. He has been awarded an AV rating (the highest possible rating for lawyers by their peers) for his professionalism and the quality of his legal work by Martindale-Hubbell, publisher of the premier directory of legal professionals.

Alternative Dispute Resolution: As a neutral, Mike's broad range of mediation and arbitration experience includes:

- Bankruptcy disputes and workouts
- Construction disputes
- Trade secret and unfair competition
- Termination of distributorships
- Estate administration and accountings
- Franchises
- Valuation of business enterprises
- Will contests
- Vendor/retailer disputes
- Transportation
- Private capital/joint venture/securities fraud
- Gasoline distributorship/supply contracts
- National distributorships
- Performance and payment bond claims
- Real estate financing
- Products liability/specialty manufacture
- Insurance coverage disputes
- Petroleum terminal contract dispute
- Business interruption and property damage
- SPA escrow and reserves
- Debt restructuring
- Employment claims and equity buy-out
- Sale and exchange of development property
- Property damage, rents and lost profits
- Medical and errors and omissions insurance Fire insurance/subrogation
- Internet advertising
- Royalty rights for medical devices/products

Litigation: A leader in the firm's New Jersey, New York, Delaware and Maryland litigation practice group. His litigation work includes:

- **Alternative Dispute Resolution:** Represents claimants and respondents in all manner of arbitration and mediation. Mike works regularly with clients to determine if and when arbitration and mediation is a viable alternative to conventional litigation.
- **Appeals:** Provides guidance with thorough knowledge of the appeals process, particularly in regard to how a client's case will be reviewed under the controlling standards that appeal tribunals apply to trial court decisions.
- **Business Owner Disputes:** Assists in avoiding conflict between business owners through mediation, arbitration or changes in the entity's business agreements or, when necessary, uses his experience to help clients resolve their disputes and protect their rights in court.
- **Directors and Officers:** Offers invaluable direction on how best to protect against and respond to liability issues in all such matters and representing directors and officers liability insurers, their insured companies and directors and officers in defense of claims involving breaches of fiduciary and other duties.
- **Estates and Trusts Litigation:** Represents fiduciaries, heirs and other related parties in disputes involving estates, trusts and fiduciaries, which are often high-stake entanglements involving immense wealth and emotional issues with family-owned partnerships or corporations.
- **Surety, Construction and Insurance:** Works on resolving matters surrounding troubled construction projects, public and private, representing the surety, owner, contractor or construction professional and keeps a focus on cost-effective dispute resolution while striving to achieve the best outcome for the client through negotiation, litigation, arbitration or mediation.

Mike also has served as a county bar president, federal bar trustee, member of the Third Circuit Lawyers Advisory Committee, Board of Bar Examiners, Supreme Court Committee on Civil Practice, Bankruptcy Court Local Rules Committee, chaired the New Jersey State Bar Association Surety Law Committee, as well as serving on numerous professional and charitable boards.