



## Mediation Panel List Mediator Spotlight Spring 2025

Under Section 3.2 of the Court's Mandatory Mediation Plan, the parties are generally able to select their own mediator from the Court-approved Mediation Panel List (unless the Court has ordered otherwise, or the parties cannot agree upon a mediator).

To help inform the parties of the unique backgrounds, experiences, training, and qualifications of the over 100 mediators on the Court-approved Mediation Panel List, each month the Court will select and highlight two mediators at random to feature in this publication.

**Eric Kendall Banks**

Banks Law LLC  
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**Hourly Mediation/Preparation Rates:** \$360/hour, minimum of 4 hours

**Background and Nature of Practice:** Mr. Banks has successfully helped parties reach agreements with complex settlements involving tens of millions of dollars. Banks has appeared in state and federal trial and appellate courts throughout the United States. While City Counselor for the City of St. Louis, he aggressively spearheaded the lawsuit that cleared the way for the \$1.2 billion expansion of the Lambert-St. Louis International Airport, one of the largest construction projects in the history of the St. Louis area. Banks was part of a national trial team involving a major financial institution in a \$253 million class-action lawsuit.

**Work History:** Mr. Banks is licensed to practice in Missouri and Illinois and admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court, the United States Courts of Appeals for the 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and D.C. Circuits, the U.S. District Courts of Central and Southern Illinois, Eastern and Western Missouri and Kansas, the United States Court of Claims, and the United States Tax Court.

**Experience:** Banks has parlayed his vast trial experience obtained from his over 30-year career in the public, corporate, and private sectors into his mediation and arbitration practice. As City Counselor, he was essentially the managing partner of one of the state's largest law firms. Banks was an Adjunct Professor at St. Louis University School of Law and Washington University School of Law for many years. He is a frequent speaker before local and national organizations and has been quoted by the media extensively on legal issues and public policy matters. Banks has received numerous awards as a result of his extensive community service.

**Education:**

- J.D., University of Missouri-Columbia School of Law
- B.S. in Business Administration – Accounting, University of Missouri – St. Louis

**Accomplishments:**

- St. Louis Public Radio Legal Roundtable, Recurring Guest (2022-Present)
- Selected by peers as a Missouri/Kansas Super Lawyer (2016-Present)
- Awarded Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory “AV” rating (1997-Present)
- Selected for Inclusion in Who’s Who in America (2021)
- Trident Award, Gold, Distinguished Alumni, University of Missouri – St. Louis (2020)
- Placed on the Lutheran High School North Hall of Honor (2017)
- Inducted into the Alumni Hall of Honor by the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater St. Louis (2012)
- Recipient of the Bringewatt Social Justice Award presented by Lutheran Family and Children's Services of Missouri (2007)
- Featured in Who’s Who in America (1999-2007)
- Author, "The Business Case for Diversity in Large Law Firms," Mound City News, April 2004
- Author, "Record Retention Policies for Human Resources Departments," *The Practical Lawyer*, Published by the American Bar Association-American Law Institute Committee on Continuing Professional Education, Volume 49, Number 2, April 2003
- Recipient of the Equal Justice Award presented by Legal Services of Eastern Missouri (2003)
- Recipient of the Cochran Community Service Award presented by the Young Lawyers' section of the Missouri Bar (2002)
- Selected as one of the “One Hundred Leaders for the Millennium” by the *St. Louis Business Journal* (2000)
- Recipient, UM-St. Louis Distinguished Alumnus Award (1990)

**Organizations:** Missouri Bar Association; American Bar Association; Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis; Mound City Bar Association, Life Member; NAACP, National Life Member; Urban League, Life Member, St. Louis Chapter; Missouri Athletic Club (Finance, Membership Committees)

**Outside the Office:** Mr. Banks likes to read, attend movies, and hang out with friends and family in his free time.

**Richard P. Goldenhersh (Hon. Ret.)**

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Mediation & Arbitration)  
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**Hourly Mediation/Preparation Rates:**

\$450 per hour (in person and zoom)

**Work History and Nature of Practice:** Richard began his career practicing with Goldenhersh & Goldenhersh in Belleville and East St. Louis and Goldenhersh & Newman in St Louis. Both firms had a general practice of law. In July of 1975, Richard began his judicial career. He was appointed associate judge in 1975 serving until 1982 in the Twentieth Circuit. In 1982 he was elected circuit judge and served until 1988. He was elected to the Appellate Court, Fifth District in 1988, and was retained in 1998 and in 2008. He retired in 2018. As both a trial and an appellate judge, Richard heard all types of civil cases including personal injury (auto, malpractice, products liability, workers compensation), commercial, real estate and insurance disputes, real estate and FELA, and Jones Act. He also heard criminal cases and served on the appellate panel for workers compensation cases. Additionally, Richard served on the Courts Commission trying ethics charges against judges. Richard served as a presiding justice of the Fifth District three times and chair of the appellate court conference.

Richard took the Illinois State Bar Association course on mediation in 2018 and joined United States Arbitration & Mediation in 2019. He has mediated and arbitrated numerous cases including real estate, personal injury and contractual disputes.

**Professional Achievements:** Richard is a past president of the Illinois Judges Association and was chair of The Illinois State Bar Association Civil Practice and Procedure section. He is currently a member of the ISBA Alternative Dispute Resolution section and active in both bars.

Richard is an adjunct faculty member for Harvard University Law School's Trial Advocacy Workshop and has taught business law, criminal law, and trial advocacy. In addition, he has consulted in a number of civil cases at the trial and appellate levels.

**Education:** Washington University in St Louis: BA 1966, JD 1969 University of Virginia LL.M 2001; Admitted to practice in Illinois, Missouri, and the Federal District Court for the Southern District of Illinois.