Shumaker

Peter R. Silverman

PARTNER

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VCard

After more than 45 years practicing as a litigator, outside general counsel, mediator, and arbitrator, Peter now devotes most of his time to serving as a mediator, settlement counsel, and arbitrator while continuing to serve as outside general counsel to a long-time client.

In 2019, Peter founded the Early Dispute Resolution Institute, which now partners with the American Arbitration Association (AAA) in its EDR Mediation program (https://www.adr.org/panel/edr-panel/). He authored the original Early Dispute Resolution Protocols, now known as the Guidelines (https://edrinstitute.org/guidelines), teaches the process nationally to litigators, general counsel, and neutrals, and uses it in all his mediations. He also teaches a seminar on early dispute resolution at The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law.

Peter has been an active arbitrator since 1986 and a mediator since 1990. He is a Fellow of the College of Commercial Arbitrators, a panelist on the AAA's EDR and general mediation panels, and a panelist on the AAA's Large, Complex Case and Franchise Panels, as well as the CPR panel. He was the first-appointed sole United States arbitrator on the Chair/Sole Arbitrator Panel of the EU-based International Distribution Institute, which offered expedited arbitration for international distribution and franchising disputes. He is also a member of the National Academy of Distinguished Neutrals.

SERVICE LINE

Early Dispute Resolution
Franchise & Distribution
Litigation & Disputes

INDUSTRY SECTOR

Real Estate, Construction & Development
Retail & Consumer
Sports, Entertainment & Hospitality

PRIMARY LOCATION

Toledo, OH

Apart from the law, he served on Toledo City Council, the Toledo School Board, and the inaugural Ohio Casino Commission, and was President of an ag biotech company. He is now a member of the Shalem College International Board of Governors.

BAR & COURT ADMISSIONS

Michigan, 1988

Ohio, 1984

New York, 1982

U.S. District Court, Southern District, New York, 1982

U.S. District Court, Eastern District, New York, 1982

Court of Appeals, New York, 1982

United States Court of Appeals, Second Circuit, 1983

Supreme Court, Michigan, 1984

U.S. District Court, Northern District, Ohio, 1985

United States Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit, 1985

United States Supreme Court, 1986

U.S. District Court, Eastern District, Michigan, 1987

United States Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit, 1988

U.S. District Court, Southern District, Ohio, 2000

Supreme Court, Ohio, 1984

United States Court of Appeals, Fourth Circuit, 2005

PROFESSIONAL & COMMUNITY AFFILIATIONS

- Toledo Bar Association
- Ohio State Bar Association
- American Bar Association
- ABA Forum on Franchising
- CPR Panel of Distinguished Neutrals
- Commercial College of Arbitrators, Fellow
- Early Dispute Resolution Institute, Inc., Trustee
- National Academy of Distinguished Neutrals, Ohio Chapter

EDUCATION

J.D., *cum laude*, University of Michigan, 1981

B.A., with honors, George Washington University, 1977

Hebrew University of Jerusalem, 1975-1976

HONORS

- AV® Peer Review Rated by Martindale-Hubbell
- Best Lawyers in America, 2007-2026 (Arbitration, Commercial Litigation, Franchise Law, Litigation – Intellectual Property, Litigation – Securities, and Mediation)
- *Chambers USA,* Franchising: Mainly Franchisee (USA – Nationwide), 2015-2026
- Lexology Index: Franchise 2026
- Ohio Super Lawyer by *Super Lawyers* magazine, 2009-2011, 2014-2026
- Franchise Times®, recognized as one of the Nation's top 100 franchise lawyers, 2005-2022; Legal Eagles Hall of Fame
- Best Lawyers, "Toledo Franchise Law Lawyer of the Year," 2020
- *Who's Who Legal: Franchise,* 2014-2018
- Entrepreneurial & Business Excellence Hall Of Fame, 2014
- *Ernst and Young Inc. Magazine,* "Entrepreneur of the Year" Award, 1989

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