

## JAMS Brings On Another Retired DC Superior Court Judge

By Jack Rodgers

*Law360 (June 5, 2025, 1:02 PM EDT)* -- Judge Anthony Epstein, a veteran of the D.C. Superior Court, has joined the alternative dispute resolution group JAMS, where he'll work as a mediator with clients on a range of business, commercial and family law matters, according to a recent announcement.

Judge Epstein will be based in JAMS' Resolution Center in Washington, D.C., where he'll serve as an arbitrator, mediator, special master/referee and neutral evaluator, JAMS announced Tuesday.

In addition to advising clients on broad commercial and family law matters, Judge Epstein also will mediate personal injury, professional malpractice and employment matters, the firm said.

Judge Epstein joins his former D.C. Superior Court colleague Judge Gerald I. Fisher, who joined the JAMS team in 2023 and served on the bench from 2001 until taking senior status in 2022.

It's the end of Judge Epstein's time on the D.C. Superior Court, after being appointed by President George W. Bush in 2007 and sworn in to the bench in September 2008. Judge Epstein took senior status in February.

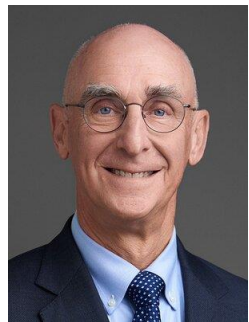
He departs a beleaguered D.C. Superior Court bench that has struggled to solve a vacancy issue that the court itself can't fix. Under D.C.'s Home Rule Act, the president nominates and the Senate confirms D.C. judges who are recommended by the district's Judicial Nomination Commission.

In an email to Law360 Pulse on Thursday, Judge Epstein said the judicial shortage at the Superior Court "has created a crisis."

"It is a testament to the dedication and hard work of the judges that the court has kept up as well as it has," Judge Epstein said.

Judge Epstein added he was delighted to join JAMS "because it is the gold standard."

"My judicial background handling both civil and family cases equips me to serve as a neutral in a broad range of cases, including commercial, employment, and family law cases," he added.



Anthony C. Epstein

A Yale Law School graduate, Judge Epstein clerked for U.S. District Judge Charles B. Renfrew of the Northern District of California. He came to the nation's capital in 1978 to work at the U.S. Department of Justice, according to his judicial bio.

He spent about three years at the agency, then left for private practice and worked at several firms for close to three decades.

He joined the D.C. Superior Court from Steptoe & Johnson LLP, where he was a partner. Before joining that firm in 1999, he was a Jenner & Block LLP attorney. He also practiced at Leva Hawes Symington Martin & Oppenheimer, according to his judicial bio.

Judge Epstein was the presiding judge of the D.C. Superior Court's Civil Division from 2021 to 2022, and was the deputy presiding judge from 2019 to 2020. He spent a large part of his service on the Criminal Division, from 2008 to 2011, 2017 and from 2023 to 2024.

Judge Epstein served as a member of the District of Columbia Courts' Advisory Committee on Judicial Conduct for 14 years, according to his judicial bio.

He also was a member of the D.C. Court of Appeals' Committee on Unauthorized Practice of Law from 1998 until 2008, and was chair of that group for eight years, according to his judicial bio.

"I will be forever grateful for the opportunity to serve on the superior court," Judge Epstein said. "The court faced many challenges during my tenure. I was the presiding judge of the civil division during the pandemic, and figuring out how to navigate those times taught valuable lessons that are still in use. In the criminal division, the shortage of judges and the volume of cases put a premium on focus and efficiency."

Kimberly Taylor, JAMS CEO and president, said in a statement Tuesday that Judge Epstein "has long been respected for his thoughtful legal insight and steady, principled approach."

"His ability to understand the unique dynamics of each case will serve him well as a neutral at JAMS, where he will help parties in resolving even the most challenging matters," Taylor said in a statement.

In March 2022, Judge Epstein ruled that a D.C. Attorney General's Office subpoena for information from Meta Platforms Inc. about users who posted COVID-19 vaccine information was enforceable. The firm said he's successfully conducted dozens of mediations, and helps to set realistic expectations for counsel to focus on particular outcomes.

--Additional reporting by Courtney Bubl , Katie Buehler and Alison Knezevich. Editing by Nicole Bleier.