



### **If you could meet any person, living or not, who would that be and why?**

Abraham Lincoln. He was a brilliant lawyer and practiced bankruptcy law!

### **What are some things about you that people would be surprised to learn?**

I love to cook and grow my own herbs. I speak French, was a French literature major in college and keep up with adult education classes. Both of my children speak French as well. They went through the French immersion program in our town, and my daughter now teaches in the program.

### **What is the most interesting place you have ever visited?**

I have been to the South of France—both Provence and the Cote d'Azur—numerous times and love everything about the region: the culture, art, architecture and language; the gorgeous flowers and intense sun; the amazing food and wine; the boundless sea and shore; and the extraordinary people.



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### **What influenced you to pursue a career in law?**

My father was the major influence that spurred me to enter the legal profession. He was a poor boy from South Boston who became a successful lawyer and judge. Through his service in World War II and the benefits of the GI Bill, he was able to attend law school. At the age of 12, I started working in his law office. At home, he would share fascinating stories of his cases. He instilled in me a love of the law, the importance of public service and the value of hard work.

### **What practice areas/case types are you particularly interested in developing at JAMS?**

Because of my 42-year career in bankruptcy, I am interested in dispute resolution for all types of disputes that arise in main bankruptcy cases and adversary proceedings, as well as commercial law disputes. Through the neutral analysis segment of JAMS, I am interested in assisting attorneys in improving motion, trial and appellate practices. As the former chief judge for the United States Bankruptcy Appellate Panel for the First Circuit, I am available to assist counsel with preparing appellate arguments and with brief writing and editing. Also, I volunteer at the Suffolk Probate and Family Court as a mediator and am interested in ADR in domestic relations cases.

### **What is your settlement style?**

My mediation settlement style is a combination of facilitation and evaluation. I thoroughly prepare for any mediation, whether that is reading the court file and all documents submitted by the parties or analyzing the strengths and weaknesses of each party's case before the mediation session. During the mediation session, I make sure I fill in any gaps in information, listen to the parties' views of their case as well as their needs and wants, and explore with the parties different options for compromise.

### **What attracted you to the world of ADR after such a prestigious career on the bench?**

Although trial and appellate practice were rewarding, ADR is often a quicker, more efficient and less costly way to solve a problem. Moreover, in ADR the outcome is not win or lose and parties can often better satisfy their interests in a consensual resolution. For example, if the parties wish to continue a business relationship after resolution of their dispute, we can factor that into a settlement.

### **What was the most interesting case you heard on the bench?**

Most interesting to me were the individual and business reorganizations, where debtors could retain their assets and rehabilitate their financial affairs. I also enjoyed helping people redress harm that predatory lenders caused.

### **What achievement are you most proud of?**

In my career, I am most proud of the reputation I had as a judge who was knowledgeable, prepared, fair and compassionate. But overall, I am most proud of raising my two children—a son and a daughter—who are industrious and caring persons and who have the values my parents and grandparents instilled in me.

**To set a case with Judge Feeney, visit [jamsadr.com/feeney](http://jamsadr.com/feeney) or call 617.228.0200.**