

Retired Florida Appeals Judge Joins JAMS In Miami

By **Madison Arnold**

Law360 (October 7, 2025, 2:22 PM EDT) -- Alternative dispute resolution provider JAMS added a retired judge from Florida's Fourth District Court of Appeal to its panel in Miami.

Dorian K. Damoorgian will serve as an arbitrator, mediator and court-appointed neutral and a neutral evaluator for JAMS, the organization announced Monday. He will handle business and commercial, real estate and real property, construction, employment and class action and mass torts disputes.

"As a trial judge, of course, cases would go away, and it was usually because of effective mediation or obviously arbitration would usually be something either the parties agreed to voluntarily or it was baked into their agreement that might be subject to the dispute," Damoorgian said in an interview with Law360 Pulse Tuesday. "So I noticed that it was a cost-effective way and in terms of time to resolve disputes. So I thought, 'Well, I want to stay active and continue with the process,' and this was the best way to do it."

He added, "I started to look into an organization to become a part of and everything I saw in JAMS worked for me, particularly the kind of cases that JAMS attracts and the people that are part of the organization."

Damoorgian served with the Fourth District in West Palm Beach from 2008 to 2025, including two years as a chief judge.

During his tenure, he wrote more than 525 opinions and addressed issues related to jurisdiction, substantive and procedural due process, statutory interpretation, application and interpretation of rules of procedure, evidence, jury selection, dispositive pretrial motions, post-trial procedure, discovery and damages, JAMS said.

Damoorgian has presided over cases that involved issues of arbitrability, the interpretation of arbitration agreements and the enforcement of arbitration awards. He's also enforced mediation settlement agreements.

"Having been on the court of appeals, it's really given me some insight into how to avoid mistakes, ... [and] also help the parties redirect their attention to what's really important about their particular dispute, because ... everybody has a position in a dispute. But then there are things that really matter and things that don't necessarily matter. And certainly when you're trying to settle a case as a mediator,



Dorian K. Damoorgian

knowing what's important is the difference between getting a case settled and the parties not reaching any agreement and then going in and having to litigate the whole process," Damoorgian said.

Litigation is "time-consuming and incredibly expensive in today's world, particularly in the commercial disputes, where time is of the essence. People have to get on with their lives. They got to get on with their businesses. So that's why I feel very strongly about this process," Damoorgian said.

In one of his most recent opinions, Damoorgian wrote on behalf of a three-judge panel in June. The panel sided with a Nevada-based lender, reversing an oral agreement to reduce interest on a \$2.6 million loan from 25% to 7%, saying such agreements must be in writing.

The panel gave a win to American First Federal Inc. and restored a previous final judgment on a loan taken out by Trugon Properties Inc., Nectalier Gonzalez Jr. and Mario Fuentes as personal representatives of the estate of Edelberto Trujillo.

"The final judgment had the effect of modifying a previously entered foreclosure judgment based on a purported oral agreement," Judge Damoorgian wrote. "Finding merit in lender's argument that the oral agreement violates the Banking Statute of Frauds, we reverse the portion of the final judgment finding that an enforceable oral forbearance agreement was created."

Before joining the appellate bench, Damoorgian sat as a judge on the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit of Florida from 2000 to 2007. He oversaw cases in the civil, criminal, dependency and family and domestic violence divisions.

During a stint as an administrative judge in the civil division, he was tasked with establishing the court's complex litigation division.

Damoorgian worked in private practice from 1980 to 1999.

"Mr. Damoorgian brings a wealth of experience from both the trial and appellate benches, offering meaningful insight into complex arbitration and mediation matters. His background will serve clients well as they navigate even the most challenging disputes," said Kimberly Taylor, JAMS CEO and president, in a statement.

Damoorgian is a graduate of Samford University's Cumberland School of Law and earned a bachelor's degree from American University.

JAMS handles more than 21,000 cases annually and employs almost 500 neutrals in 29 locations. The organization was first established in 1979 and has been home to retired federal and state court judges, former litigators, transactional attorneys and other alternative dispute resolution professionals.

--Additional reporting by David Minsky. Editing by Patrick Reagan.