

Retired Georgia Federal Judge Joins JAMS In Atlanta

By James Mills

Law360 (June 16, 2025, 4:31 PM EDT) -- Alternative dispute resolution service JAMS has expanded its mediation team, announcing Monday that it has added a former Northern District of Georgia judge known for tossing one of the 2020 election fraud cases.

Timothy C. Batten Sr., who retired from the bench on May 23, has joined JAMS as a mediator. He served 19 years as a judge with the Northern District of Georgia, including four years as chief judge of the district. He is especially known for dismissing a December 2020 case claiming the use of Dominion voting machines in Georgia led to widespread fraud and therefore the state's 2020 election results should not be certified.



Timothy C. Batten Sr.

Batten will be based in JAMS' Atlanta Resolution Center, but will also handle virtual cases.

Batten told Law360 on Monday that he retired on his 65th birthday and is looking forward to starting a new chapter in his life.

"I am excited for the change," Batten said. "I really enjoyed being a federal district judge. I especially enjoyed being chief judge. But I am looking forward to doing something different but related to what I've been doing for 41 years."

He said the move to JAMS has been a year in the making.

"I started talking with JAMS over a year ago," Batten said. "I looked around at a few other places and landed at JAMS, and I'm really excited about it. I think it's a great place to work. It's an outstanding organization comprised of dedicated, experienced professionals who make a difference in people's lives."

Batten will serve as an arbitrator, mediator and neutral evaluator handling a wide range of cases, whatever comes his way.

"I don't think I will concentrate too specifically on one area of the law," Batten said. "As a U.S. district judge and as a trial lawyer for 22 years before that, I had a very broad practice and was exposed to a lot of very different areas of the law. I am not inclined to focus or concentrate on just one or two areas."

He's especially looking forward to handling mediations.

"I think the big issue in mediation is not usually the subject matter, but it's the hearts and minds of the people who are involved in litigation," Batten said. "I hope to be effective across all different subject areas, especially in the cases where the people say, 'We don't think this case is ever going to settle.' I am convinced there is no such thing as a case that just cannot settle, and I'd like to prove that."

Batten is the latest former Northern District of Georgia judge to join JAMS. In May, J. Clay Fuller, who served as a magistrate judge from 2012 until his retirement from the court in 2024, signed on with the service.

JAMS was founded in 1979 as Judicial Arbitration and Mediation Services. It now has 29 locations and a roster of about 500 mediators. JAMS CEO and President Kimberly Taylor is happy to have Batten come aboard.

"We are pleased to welcome Judge Batten to our panel at JAMS," Taylor said in a statement. "Beyond his extensive legal background and analytical skills, he brings high emotional intelligence and empathy to each case. He is well equipped to foster trust and guide parties toward meaningful, mutually beneficial outcomes."

Batten, who was born and raised in Atlanta, earned his law degree in 1984 from the University of Georgia School of Law after earning his bachelor's degree in industrial management from Georgia Institute of Technology.

He joined Schreeder Wheeler & Flint LLP in Atlanta as an associate in 1984, staying for the next 22 years. He served as lead counsel in more than 25 civil trials that went to verdict, as well as co-counsel in many others, according to the JAMS statement. His practice areas included medical malpractice, products liability, construction, commercial contracts, fraud and personal injury.

In 2005, President George W. Bush tapped Batten to serve on the bench of the Northern District of Georgia. He then became the chief judge in May 2021, after the previous chief judge, Thomas W. Thrash Jr., assumed senior status.

Although Batten handled hundreds of cases during his time on the bench, he will long be associated with dismissing the Dominion voting machines case.

"There was absolutely no merit to the case from the get-go," Batten said. "It never should have been filed. It was a waste of time and resources. I was glad when it was over."

--Additional reporting by Jake Maher. Editing by Nicole Bleier.