



To set a case with Judge Potts, visit jamsadr.com/potts or call 313-209-8851.



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Why did you decide to join JAMS after stepping down from the trial bench?

When I was on the trial bench, I saw the good work being accomplished by the JAMS Detroit team. The cases I referred for mediation and arbitration were handled professionally and usually resulted in a successful resolution. I was particularly impressed with the way that the neutral didn't simply give up on a case when it was difficult and messy. The neutral would frequently continue contact with the parties, and a creative solution was often achieved. I was convinced by both its reputation and the work done in my court that JAMS would be a good fit for me.

What practice areas interest you the most?

I really enjoy the business cases, but I also find probate and family law cases to be very challenging. Business cases can often be quite similar to family cases. They can be highly emotional and involve friends pitted against each other.

What would fellow attorneys and former clients say about your settlement skills?

They would probably say that I am easy to work with and that clients seem to like me. Yet I can be firm when necessary. I believe I am respected for some of the trickier settlements I was able to achieve.

Your forthcoming book, *1200*, is about your time as a trial court judge. What inspired you to write a book? What can readers expect to learn about you?

I had so many good stories that I wanted to share, so I just started writing them down. It was so exciting to realize how much I had experienced as I wrote chapter after chapter. With some assistance, I was able to pare it down from 92 chapters. What readers can expect is the raw truth about what happens in a busy trial court.

Please tell us about your time on the Oakland County Business Court. Why was the business court founded? What did you like best about your work with Michigan business leaders?

The purpose of the business court was to bring expertise and predictability of results to the litigants. All opinions of the court are available online. I was one of two business court judges in my county. Judge James Alexander and I collaborated and shaped many of the processes of the court. We also instituted a Business Court Advisory Committee comprised of highly respected attorneys who practiced commercial litigation on a regular basis. We would meet quarterly with the group and discuss how to make the court more efficient. The formation of the business court led to more collaboration among judges who had the business docket. The business judges of the state would often meet and work toward improvements in the court. I found the business leaders themselves to be very invested in their cases and helpful in working toward resolution.

ADR in the time of COVID-19 has changed significantly. What lasting impact(s) do you think we will see in the ADR field?

As a result of COVID-19, litigants have been forced into entirely new methods of ADR. There is no choice but to conduct ADR remotely if parties wish to proceed during this shutdown period.

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As things begin to return to normal, it will be interesting to see if using platforms such as Zoom will be the preferred method of conducting ADR.

You are the founder of The RESTORE Foundation. Tell us about that.

The RESTORE Foundation was created to help fund the Oakland County drug courts during challenging economic times. There was a real threat that these specialized courts would have to discontinue their programs without alternative funding. RESTORE continues to tackle the difficult issue of relapse among those who have been through drug and/or alcohol treatment programs and even lengthy stays at rehabilitation facilities. Drug and alcohol abusers are at high risk of relapsing when life presents them with challenges such as death or a failed relationship. Six hundred high-risk individuals have participated in the RESOLVE program created by RESTORE and other collaborators. Those most at risk for relapse are those who have recently completed a program and are now on their own with little or no support.

If you could give one piece of advice to young women interested in entering the field of law, what would it be?

Choose an area of the law to specialize in and become very good at it. Remember to have balance in your life. The law is a great profession, but don't let it consume you.

Fun Facts

What is your favorite pastime outside of the office?

I love walking the streets in my neighborhood. There are so many fabulous dogs that I am afraid I could have a moment of weakness and end up adopting one, and that's a huge commitment.

If you could spend an hour with anyone in history, living or not, who would that be and why?

I would love an hour with my father, Sol Yolles. He died at an early age and never had the chance to see me become an attorney and a judge.

What achievement are you most proud of?

I am proud of my two wonderful daughters, who live life on their own terms.

What book are you currently reading?

Unfortunately, my reading time is limited, as I am involved with final edits on my book *1200* and am about to write another, *Call Me Chloe*.

What is your favorite family tradition?

This might sound corny, but my favorite family tradition is Sunday dinner. My family group is large and includes some people whom I consider family even though we aren't related.