Hon. Arlander Keys (Ret.)

JAMS

CHAMPIONSHIP PEDIGREE

Al Keys served as a U.S. Magistrate Judge in the Northern District of Illinois for 20 years. “I was involved in all aspects of civil litigation. I also engaged in settlement conferences for my own cases, as well as for other judges. That was my favorite aspect of the job. Settling cases was preferable to going through the litigation process, even though I was prepared for that, too. It was a logical progression to go into ADR once I left the court.”

EXPERIENCE & EXPERTISE

Keys must maintain a nonbiased approach in his ADR work. That is particularly important in matters such as a current case where the ACLU of Illinois and the Chicago Police Department asked him to independently evaluate CPD practices and procedures around “stop and frisk.” “The ACLU came up with its own data for over one million stops. Whites, Hispanics, and African Americans each make up about one-third of the population, but more than 70 percent of stops happened to African Americans. The city and CPD entered into a voluntary agreement without admitting guilt. Instead of pursuing litigation, the ACLU and the city have chosen me to help. I can make recommendations, issue reports and other actions. In every stop that’s made, a police officer must fill out a form, and if they pat the person down, explain what made them suspect the person of carrying a weapon. I issued my second report in March. It’s a long process, but I feel satisfaction in helping the parties comply with the settlement agreement.”

FUTURE VISION

The future of ADR is bright. “Courts are so overwhelmed, and more lawyers are looking for speed and lower cost. Lawyers and parties realize they are getting the same judges in ADR as they would in court.”