



Hon. Michael R. Panter, (Ret.) Illinois

Hon. Michael R. Panter, (Ret.), is a senior mediator and arbitrator at ADR Systems with more than 40 years of legal experience. While on the bench, Judge Panter won acclaim for his settlement abilities. He settled numerous cases, including medical malpractice claims, construction claims, legal malpractice, product liability, premises cases, fee disputes, motor vehicle accidents, and commercial cases involving contracts, property damage, and fire subrogation. Before becoming a judge, he was an active trial lawyer with his own law firm for 30 years. He brings a broad perspective to his practice, having served both as a neutral and as an advocate in hundreds of mediations and arbitrations. Immediately prior to becoming a judge, Judge Panter was a full-time faculty member at DePaul University College of Law where he founded DePaul's Litigation Lab, a hands-on educational program for law students that has been the subject of numerous articles. Judge Panter is known for his thorough and intelligent approach to settlements and the boundless energy he brings to the dispute resolution process.

Types of Cases Resolved

- Animal Injuries
- Architectural Malpractice
- Auto Liability
- Bicycle Cases
- Birth Trauma
- Civil Rights
- Construction Cases
- Contract
- Contribution and Indemnity
- Corporate and Commercial
- Coverage Disputes
- Defamation
- Dental Malpractice
- Discrimination
- Elevator Cases
- Employment
- Family Business
- Fee Disputes and Liens
- Fire Damage
- Inadequate Security
- Invasion of Privacy
- Legal Malpractice
- Liquor Liability
- Mass Torts
- Medical Malpractice
- Municipalities
- Nursing Facilities
- Parenting Problems
- Partnership Breakups
- Pharmaceutical
- Premises Liability
- Product Liability
- Property Damage
- Railroad
(Federal Employers Liability Act)
- Sexual Assault
- Subrogation
- Toxic Tort
- Toy & Recreational Injuries
(Scuba, Golf, Health Club, Jet Ski, Roller Rink, Etc.)
- Uninsured & Underinsured
- Motorist Claims (UM & UIM)
- Wrongful Arrest
- Wrongful Birth

ADR Experience and Qualifications

- Senior mediator, ADR Systems of America
- 7-year judicial career in the Circuit Court of Cook County, serving in the 1st Municipal District, the Domestic Relations Division, Law Division Motion Call and the Jury Trial Section
- 30-year career as a trial lawyer starting with commercial litigation at Panter, Nelson & Bernfield, Ltd., and tort and commercial litigation at Michael R. Panter and Associates.
- Director of Litigation Lab, DePaul University College of Law
- Adjunct Professor, DePaul University College of Law

Representative Cases

- \$20 million settlement in a car and truck collision with severe injuries
- \$20 million case for wrongful placement and monitoring of a foster child by a private agency
- Over 20 medical malpractice cases for more than \$1 million, including ten cases between \$7-12 million
- \$5.3 million case involving a construction worker killed when a crane collapsed at the construction site
- \$2.5 million medical malpractice case involving a patient who died as a result of an undiagnosed post-operative pulmonary embolism
- \$2.4 million medical malpractice case involving a delayed cancer diagnosis resulting in the death of an elderly patient
- \$1 million attorney fee dispute case
- \$1 million case involving the suicide of a mentally ill patient following psychiatric admission
- \$1 million settlement for loss of an infant's arm due to physician's failure to recognize vascular compromise and thrombosis after an IV line was inserted
- \$750,000 product liability case involving a child who lost an eye due to a defective spring-launched toy airplane

Professional Activities and Awards (Past and Present)

- Faculty, State of Illinois Judicial Education Conference, 2012, 2014, 2016 (“Settlement Strategies”)
- Faculty, 2015 New Judge Seminar
- ABA TIPS Vice-Chair
- Illinois Supreme Court, Committee on Discovery Procedures
- Illinois Supreme Court, Civil Justice Committee
- State of Illinois Judicial Bench Book on Civil Law and Procedure, Writing Team
- Cook County Law Division Committee on Mediation of Discovery Disputes
- AAA Commercial Panel of National Roster of Arbitration and Panel of Mediators
- Illinois Judges Association
- American Bar Association, Litigation and Judicial Divisions, Tips, Commercial & Business litigation and ADR Subcommittees
- Illinois State Bar Association
- Florida State Bar Association
- Chicago Bar Association, Tort Litigation Committee and Referral Panels
- DuPage County Bar Association
- West Suburban Bar Association
- American Association for Justice
- Trial Lawyers for Public Justice
- Illinois Trial Lawyers Association
- American Society of Trial Consultants
- Southern Poverty Law Center
- Women’s Bar Association
- Mentor, Women’s Bar Association of Illinois
- Mentor, Gay and Lesbian Alliance
- Mentor, Israel Cancer Research Fund
- Women Everywhere: Partners in Service Project
- Jewish Judges Association
- Decalogue Society of Lawyers
- Young Men’s Jewish Council (JCYS)
- Jewish United Fund
- Jewish Community Centers
- Standard Club
- Featured in articles and profiles in Crain’s, Chicago Daily Law Bulletin, Chicago Lawyer Magazine, St. John’s College

Presentations and Publications

- Panelist, “Scare ‘Em or Spare ‘Em? How Aggressive Should We Get In Pleadings?”, TIPS (Torts Trial and Insurance Practice Section), ABA Annual Meeting
- Presenter, “Overview of Damages in Commercial Litigation,” Chicago Bar Association Seminar
- Presenter, “Streamlining Litigation,” Chubb Group of Insurance Companies
- Keynote Address, “Streamlining the Litigation Process,” CLM 2015 Professional Liability & Municipal Law Conference
- Presenter, DRI Insurance Coverage and Claims Institute
- Presenter, Consortium of Representatives from Major Illinois Insurers
- Presenter, Adjusters Group of Hanover Insurance
- Presenter, Auto Management Claims Group of State Farm Insurance Company
- Presenter, Illinois Association of Defense Trial Counsel, Spring Symposium
- Presenter, “Getting the Judge on Your Side,” Law Division & Municipal Joint Seminar
- Presenter, ADR in the United States,” for officials from China’s Ministry of Justice, through the University of Illinois Office of Global Education & Training, and hosted by the University’s China Executive Leadership Program
- Presenter, “Litigation Issues,” Tort Litigation Committee
- Presenter, “Arbitration,” Tennessee Trial Lawyers Association
- Presenter, Circuit Court of Cook County Mandatory Arbitration and Mediation
- Presenter, “Defendant’s Store Clerk – Direct Examination and Cross-Examination,” Anatomy of a Trial, ISBA Tort Law Section
- Presenter, “Perspective from the Bench,” ITLA Medical Malpractice Seminar
- Presenter, Chicago Bar Association, Young Lawyers Section
- Presenter, Judge Lynn M. Egan’s Lunchtime Seminars
- Presenter, Judge James P. Flannery Meeting of New Judges
- Presenter, Chicago Bar Association Tort Litigation Committee

Presentations and Publications (*Continued*)

- Presenter, PINCUS CLE Seminars
- Presenter, Chicago Bar Association Judges' Annual Symposium
- Panelist, "The Mechanics of Jury Selection," Circuit Court of Cook County panel discussion and seminar
- Panelist, "Creative Solutions: How to Reduce Litigation Costs and Expedite Resolution," Circuit Court of Cook County Lunchtime Seminar Series
- Panelist, Chicago Bar Association, ADR Committee
- Panelist, "Damages: What, When and How," Circuit Court of Cook County Lunchtime Seminar Series
- Moderating Judge, Willis Retail Litigation Symposium
- Writing team of the Civil Law and Procedure Bench Book for the State of Illinois
- Presenter, Fred Lane, ISBA Trial Techniques Course
- Author, "Why Shareholders Have the Right to Accept Tender Offers," CBA Record
- Author, Circuit Court of Cook County Law Division Benchbook, chapters on "Voir Dire" and "Motions in Limine"
- Author, ITLA Civil Practice Update, "Discovery"
- Author, "Thirty Years in 1,600 Bankers Boxes," CBA Record
- Keynote Address, Commencement Exercises, Bradwell School of Excellence

MCLE Presentations Judge Panter Can Do:

Judge Panter is available to do MCLE presentations on a variety of mediation and litigation topics, including:

- Jury Verdict Reports as a Tool to Study Case Evaluation
- Mediation Do's and Don'ts
- Summary Jury Trials
- The Finish Line - Jury Instructions
- Voir Dire
- Openings, Closings, Direct and Cross Exam
- Hot Topics in Civil Litigation
- Objections – Do You Feel Lucky
- Settlement Strategies for Judges
- Best Tips for Judges
- How to Get the Judge on Your Side
- Fred Lane Trial Techniques
- Streamlining the Litigation Process
- Arbitration
- Defendant's Store Clerk – Direct Examination and Cross-Examination
- Overview of Damages in Commercial Litigation
- Perspective from the Bench
- The Mechanics of Jury Selection
- Creative Solutions: How to Reduce Litigation Costs and Expedite Resolution
- Damages: What, When and How
- Walk through prior cases to look at case valuation and how it plays out at trial - Pincus Professional Education – MCLE for Attorneys and Legal Professionals, www.pincusproed.com
- Mediation Pitfalls: Making the Most of Your Mediation
- In's and Out's of Legal Malpractice Cases

Education

- DePaul University College of Law, J.D.
- University of Wisconsin-Madison, B.A.
- St. John's College, Annapolis, MD (“The Great Books School”)

Admissions

- Illinois State Bar
- Florida State Bar
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit
- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois
- Trial Bar for the Northern District of Illinois
- Supreme Court of the United States

Certifications

- The Effective Facilitator, Jun 2018 – Present, Leadership Strategies

Website

More information on Judge Panter can be found on his website at mikepanter.com.