



AFFIRMATIVE
DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Judge Richard D. Sievers (Ret.)

Retired Judge Richard Sievers is available to assist parties in conflict with resolving a variety of disputes through mediation and arbitration, including divorce, medical and legal malpractice, agriculture, banking, divorce, commercial, employment, estates and probate, personal injury and others.

- Trained Mediator
- Former Chief Judge of Nebraska Court of Appeals



SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS

After serving as a Judge of the Nebraska Court of Appeals from January of 1992, including as the Court's first Chief Judge, Sievers returned to the private practice of law in 2013. He joined the roster of ADR neutrals with Affirmative Dispute Resolution in 2015.

Sievers completed the Nebraska Mediation Association's Basic Mediation Training, as well as its Parenting/Family Mediation Training in September and November 2012. He is approved by the Supreme Court's Office of Dispute Resolution as a parenting plan mediator.

Sievers' undergraduate degree is from Kearney State College and he is a 1972 graduate of the University of Nebraska College of Law. He practiced exclusively civil trial law with a Lincoln law firm for 19 years where he was a partner, and an AV rated lawyer. His practice included personal injury, products liability, and worker's compensation cases as both plaintiff and defense counsel. Sievers also did medical malpractice cases, asbestos litigation, and extensive jury trial work in federal court defending police officers in civil rights litigation, as well as commercial and divorce litigation.

Sievers served on the Court of Appeals from its inception in late 1991 until his retirement from the bench. He authored approximately 1600 opinions covering virtually all types and aspects of civil and criminal litigation. He authored nearly 400 permanently published precedential opinions. His published opinions reflect his particular knowledge and expertise



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in the areas of professional liability, product liability, water law, insurance coverage, and divorce actions involving complex property division and alimony issues. His leadership in the initial start-up and operation of the new Nebraska appellate court was acknowledged by the Nebraska Bar Association when he was given its Award of Special Merit in October 1996.

While on the Court, Sievers was involved from 2001 to 2012 in the effort to insure access to the court system by people who were attempting to represent themselves. He served during this time as the Chairperson of the Nebraska Supreme Court's committee on assistance to self-represented litigants. The committee was responsible for the development of a number of innovative and effective strategies and tools to assist self-represented litigants. His efforts and leadership in this regard were recognized by the Nebraska Supreme Court when he received the Court's award in 2005 as Outstanding Judge for Community Service.

EDUCATION

- J.D., 1972, University of Nebraska College of Law, Lincoln, NE
- B.A., 1969, Kearney State College (now University of Nebraska at Kearney), Kearney, NE
- Certificates in Basic Mediation Training and Parenting/Family Mediation Training, Nebraska Mediation Association
- Approved by the Supreme Court's Office of Dispute Resolution as a parenting plan mediator

MEMBERSHIPS

- Nebraska Mediation Association
- Nebraska Bar Association

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Of Counsel, Perry Guthery Law Firm, 2013 – present, Lincoln, NE

- Practice focuses on alternative dispute resolution, including mediation and arbitration, as well as complex divorce litigation and appellate casework

Judge, Nebraska Court of Appeals, 1992-2013, Lincoln, NE

- Authored approximately 1,600 opinions, covering virtually all aspects of civil and criminal litigation
- Participated as author judge or panel member in deciding over 10,000 appeals

- Expertise in complex marital dissolutions, professional liability of all sorts, insurance coverage, product liability, personal injury, worker's compensation, contract disputes, probate/trusts, and water law

Civil Trial Lawyer, 1973-1992, Lincoln, NE

- Practice included personal injury, products liability, workers' compensation, medical malpractice, divorce
- Representation of both plaintiffs and defendants
- Extensive jury trial work in Federal Court, including civil rights litigation and asbestos litigation

SERVICE

- University of Nebraska College of Law: Adjunct faculty 1988-2000, Trial Advocacy and Pre-Trial Litigation
- Lincoln Legal Aid: 13 years on the Board of Directors, including a term as President of the Board
- National High School Mock Trial Championship: Presiding Judge at the National Championship Competition for 11 years, served on the organization's national Board of Directors from 2007-12, including as chair of the Board's Policy Committee, and as Chair of the Special Committee on Religious Accommodations
- Nebraska State Bar Foundation: Foundation Fellow for over 12 years, and presently serving a second term as a member of the Board of Directors

HONORS & AWARDS

- Outstanding Judge for Service to the Community
- Nebraska Supreme Court, October 2006
- Given for service to the Judicial system to improve access to justice throughout Nebraska for self represented litigants through work as Chairperson of the Nebraska Supreme Court's Committee on Implementation of Assistance to Pro Se Litigants
- Award of Special Merit
- Nebraska State Bar Association, October 1996
- Given for outstanding leadership as the first Chief Judge of the Nebraska Court of Appeals in the initial startup and operation of the State's new appellate court that began operation in January 1992