

Michael R. Casale

OF COUNSEL

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Having served as a trial judge in one of the busiest courts in New Jersey, I strongly believe that mediation and arbitration are often quicker and more cost-effective routes to fair and final dispute resolutions, and avoid the case backlog that impacts our judicial system in traditional litigation.

Judge Casale focuses his practice on mediation, arbitration, settlement conferences and discovery management. He has extensive experience in the areas of family law, personal injury and insurance defense, which he brings to bear in his representation of clients in complex family and civil disputes, including malpractice and employment litigation matters. His practice also encompasses consultation and trial strategy in child custody, relocation, child support and domestic violence matters.

In 2016, Judge Casale retired from the New Jersey Judiciary following over 20 years of service as a Superior Court Judge in Essex County, serving at the trial court level in the Criminal (1996 – 2008), Civil (2008 – 2011) and Family (2011 – 2016) Divisions. During his long judicial career, Judge Casale presided over a death penalty case, numerous gang and drug trials, negligence cases, medical and legal malpractice lawsuits, employment discrimination matters, commercial litigations, product liability claims, and a wide range of family law cases.

Prior to his service on the bench, Judge Casale represented clients as a litigator in private practice, representing numerous New Jersey municipalities in personal injury defense matters and handling litigation matters for insurance company clients.

Departments

Family Law

Practice Groups

Alternative Dispute Resolution

Education

Seton Hall University School of Law, J.D., *magna cum laude*, 1981

University of Connecticut, B.A., *cum laude*, 1978

Bar Admissions

New Jersey, 1981

U.S. District Court, District of New Jersey, 1981

U.S. Court of Appeals, Third Circuit, 1981

Clerkships

Former law clerk to The Honorable Nicholas J. Scalera

Results may vary depending on your particular facts and legal circumstances.

HONORS & AWARDS

- Recipient of the 2018 Alumnus of the Year Award from the Bloomfield Educational Foundation, in recognition of distinguished professional achievement
- Recipient of the Peter J. Rodino Award while attending law school
- Martindale-Hubbell® Peer Review Rated AV® Preeminent (a trademark of Internet Brands, Inc.)

Please visit our Award Methodology page for a description of the standard or methodology on which these accolades are based. Attorney Advertising: No aspect of this advertisement has been approved by the Supreme Court of New Jersey.

UNIQUELY NJ

- New Jersey State Bar Association: Family Law Section, Executive Committee; Cannabis and Psychedelics Law Special Committee; Membership Committee
- Essex County Bar Association
- Barry Croland Family Law American Inn of Court
- Brennan-Vanderbilt American Inn of Court

MORE ACTIVITIES & EXPERIENCE

- Township of Bloomfield Assistant Township Attorney (1991-1995)
- Township of Bloomfield Councilman (1985-1990)
- Essex County Security and Facilities Committee (past Chairman)
- Essex County Judicial Pension and Salary Committee (past Member)

PRESENTATIONS & SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Panelist, The Fab Four and Lepis – Hot Tips for Navigating the Many Areas of Post-Judgment Family Law Practice

Sponsor: *New Jersey Institute for Continuing Legal Education*, November 11, 2025

Panelist, 2025 Jeffrey P. Weinstein Family Law Institute

Sponsor: *New Jersey Institute for Continuing Legal Education*, July 23, 2025

Panelist and Lecturer, Boardwalk Seminar 2025: Matrimonial Law

Sponsor: *New Jersey Association for Justice*, May 1, 2025

Faculty, 2024 Jeffrey P. Weinstein Family Law Institute

Sponsor: *New Jersey Institute for Continuing Legal Education*, September 24-25, 2024

Speaker, 2023 Jeffrey P. Weinstein Family Law Summer Institute

Sponsor: *New Jersey Institute for Continuing Legal Education*, July 25-26, 2023

Speaker, 2022 Family Law Summer Institute

Sponsor: *New Jersey Institute for Continuing Legal Education*, 7.26-27.22

Panelist, Hot Tips in Family Law: What I Wish I Knew When I Was Starting Out

Sponsor: *New Jersey Institute for Continuing Legal Education*, November 11, 2021

Panelist, Valuation, the Practice of Law, and the Business of Running a Law Firm in a Post-COVID Economy

Sponsor: *Essex County Bar Association*, September 30, 2021

Panelist, 2021 Family Law Summer Institute

Sponsor: *New Jersey Institute for Continuing Legal Education*, July 27, 2021

Speaker, 2020 Family Law Summer Institute

Sponsor: *New Jersey Institute for Continuing Legal Education*, July 21-22, 2020

Speaker, Successfully Navigating Divorce Settlements Involving Closely Held Businesses: An Essential Guide to Achieving the Best Result

Sponsor: *New Jersey Institute for Continuing Legal Education*, December 4, 2019

Speaker, 2019 Family Law Summer Institute

Sponsor: *New Jersey Institute for Continuing Legal Education*, July 23-24, 2019

Panelist, Cohabitation Law in a Developing Legal Landscape

Sponsor: *Justice Virginia Long Family Law American Inn of Court*, June 21, 2018

Presenter, A Nuts and Bolts Guide to Divorce Law Practice in New Jersey: From Complaint to Judgment

Sponsor: *Lawline*, June 11, 2018

Presenter, Divorce Program

Sponsor: *Volunteer Lawyers for Justice*, May 10, 2018

Panelist, 2018 Family Law Symposium

Sponsor: *New Jersey Institute for Continuing Legal Education*, January 27, 2018

Presenter, New Jersey Motion Practice

Sponsor: *Lawline*, August 14, 2017

Panelist, New Jersey State Bar Association Annual Meeting and Convention

Sponsor: *New Jersey State Bar Association*, May 17-19, 2017

Faculty, 2016 Family Law Summer Institute

Sponsor: *New Jersey Institute for Continuing Legal Education*, July 26-27, 2016

PUBLICATIONS & ALERTS

Quoted, Debts Gone Bad, Relations Gone Sour

New York Times, May 1, 2009