



Denise Reuter

Mediator | Arbitrator | Special Master

Denise.Reuter@PowerHouseMediation.com

(612) 895-2210

“I believe mediation works best when parties feel heard, respected, and guided toward practical solutions that stand the test of time.”

- Denise Reuter | PowerHouse Neutral

BIOGRAPHY

Denise Reuter is a seasoned Minnesota attorney, mediator, and former trial specialist with a career spanning more than three decades in litigation, risk management, and dispute resolution. She served as in-house counsel for American Family Insurance and Soo Line Railroad (Canadian Pacific Kansas City Railway), where she managed catastrophic claims, property damage, and other civil law matters. Denise also built a successful private practice as a trial attorney, well recognized in mediation circles for her creative and balanced approach to resolution. Denise earned certification as a Civil Trial Specialist during her years of trial practice, underscoring her expertise in complex litigation.

Now available as a neutral with PowerHouse Mediation, Denise brings her reputation for fairness, steadiness, and insight to the mediation table. She offers mediations and arbitrations across personal injury, wrongful death, railroad and FELA claims, insurance disputes, and other civil dispute—providing parties with a path to resolution grounded in real-world experience and professional excellence.



PRACTICE AREAS

- Civil Mediation
- Civil Arbitration
- Special Master Assignments

EDUCATION

- **St. Catherine University**, St. Paul,, MN; Spiritual Direction Certificate '24
- **William Mitchell College of Law**, St. Paul, MN; Juris Doctorate - 1983
- **University of Wisconsin** - Eau Claire, B.A. Criminal Justice - Cum Laude '79
- **University of Minnesota**, Twin Cities - Associate of Arts '77

PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT

FELA CLAIMS/MANAGER LITIGATION RISK: 2010 - 2020

In-House Counsel, Soo Line Railroad Co., Subsidiary of Canadian Pacific (nka Canadian Pacific Kansas City Railway Co.), US Casualty Management. Case management of injuries/catastrophic loss including casualty response; investigation; evidence preservation; claim management to resolution or verdict. Areas of responsibility included Employee Injuries (soft tissue; occupational exposures; traumatic amputation; TBI; fatalities); Property Damage/Remediation; Derailments; Trespasser/Crossing Accidents and claims. Retention/Supervision of Outside Counsel/Experts for consultation/litigation needs.

INSURANCE DEFENSE LITIGATION: 1989 - 2010

In-house counsel, American Family Insurance Co. 1989-2001

Outside Counsel: 2001 - 2010.

Automobile/Homeowner/Property/Business Liability Claims:

Representation of Policyholder (Bodily Injury/Property Damage Claims/Workers' Compensation Defense);



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PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT (CONTINUED)

Company representation, Departmental Claims Assistance (No-Fault, Uninsured/Underinsured Motorist Claims); Declaratory Judgment Actions; Personal Caseload/Supervision of Outside Counsel

Oskie & Bauch, P.A. 2001-2002 - Of Counsel

St. Paul, MN

Insurance Defense Litigation - American Family

Oskie, Reuter, Hamilton & Sofio, P.A., 2003-2007 - Partner

St. Paul, MN

Insurance Defense Litigation - American Family

Mediation Services

Denise L. Reuter, P.A., 2007-2010

Eagan, MN

Insurance Defense Litigation - American Family

Mediation Services

CIVIL/CRIMINAL PRACTICE: 1984-1989

Dorsey & Whitney, P.A. 1988-1989

Paralegal in the Labor and Employment Division. Work with Department Chair and clients in preparation of Position Statements and discovery responses in litigation. Handbook modifications and updates for corporations.

McMenomy & Severson P.A. - Partner 1984-88 (fka: Alton, Severson, Sovis, Groves & Chesick, P. A., Associate Attorney) Practice areas included Employment Law (Employer/Employee); Real Estate - Residential/Commercial; Assistant City Attorney, Apple Valley; Assistant Public Defender, First Judicial District (under Alton, Severson, et.al.)



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MEDIATION/CONFLICT RESOLUTION TRAINING

- **Certified Civil Mediation Skills Training, PowerHouse Mediation**, February, 2025
- **Certified Civil Mediation Training - the Transformative Approach**, Simon Mediation, August 26 - 29, 2021
- **General Mediation Training**, Mediation Center for Dispute Resolution and the Dispute Resolution Institute; Hamline University School of Law, 1995
- **Mediation Instructor**, US Arbitration and Mediation of MN - Level 1: 2008; 2004; 2003
- **Conflict Resolution/Mediation/Relationship workshops from a Cross-Cultural Perspective**, Angeles Arrien, Ph.D. Cult. Anthropologist, 1999-2013.
- **Cross-Cultural Dispute Resolution Training**, Mediation Center for Dispute Resolution in affiliation with Hamline University Law and Graduate Schools, 1998.

MEMBERSHIPS/ACCOMPLISHMENTS - CURRENT

- Minnesota State Bar Association
- First Judicial District/Dakota County Bar Assn.
- Justice Amdahl Inn of Courts

MEMBERSHIPS/ACCOMPLISHMENTS - FORMER

- National Association of Railroad Trial Counsel
- American Board of Trial Advocates
- MSBA - Certified Civil Trial Specialist
- NBTA - Certified Civil Trial Specialist
- Minnesota Defense Lawyers Association



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PERSONAL/PROFESSIONAL/VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES - CURRENT

- D. Reuter Spiritual Direction, LLC
- Volunteer — Our Lady of Peace, Hospice and Care Services, St. Paul
- New Sociables Women's Club, Asst. Program Director

PERSONAL/PROFESSIONAL/VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES - FORMER

- Volunteer Mediator — Minneapolis Civilian Police Review Board
- Volunteer Mediator — MPLS Mediation Program / Conflict Resolution Cr.
- Adjunct Professor - William Mitchell College of Law
- Attorney Coach - MSBA Mock Trial, Cretin Derham Hall - 1997-2003
- Mock Trial Judge - National Mock Trial Competitions
- Board of Directors, MSBA Certified Trial Specialists
- Board of Directors, Camp du Nord, YMCA
- MADD Volunteer - Pro Bono Legal services/Advocacy; Speaker; Volunteer at MN State Fair Booth - 10+ years



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