POWERHOUSE MEDIATION

Michael D. Tewksbury

Mediator · Arbitrator · Special Master

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Michael D. Tewksbury is a Minnesota civil mediator, arbitrator, special master, and trial lawyer. He has conducted more than 1,500 mediations and arbitrations. His trial practice has included representing injured plaintiffs, defending insureds, and litigating coverage disputes for insurers. In mediation, he draws on that experience to help parties and counsel assess the strengths and weaknesses of their cases and make informed settlement decisions.

NEUTRAL SERVICES

Civil mediation · Civil arbitration · Special master assignments

PRACTICE AREAS

- Serious personal injury and wrongful death
- Product liability and mass torts
- Professional malpractice
- Insurance coverage and defense disputes
- Construction litigation

SELECTED SPECIAL MASTER APPOINTMENTS

- I-35W bridge collapse (2008–2009). The Minnesota Supreme Court appointed him to the panel that designed and administered the victim compensation program.
- Cottonwood bus crash (2010). Evaluated competing claims and proposed an allocation of limited settlement proceeds.
- Yaz/Yasmin litigation. Determined allocations of settlement proceeds among groups of claimants.
- Cedar Apartment explosion (2019) and Tristar pressure cooker litigation (2021). Served as special master for distribution hearings.

Michael D. Tewksbury

LEGAL PRACTICE

Pattee, Tewksbury & Kerfeld, P.A. · 1994–2026
Co-founded the firm in 1994. His practice has included plaintiffs' personal injury litigation, insurance defense, coverage litigation, and alternative dispute resolution.

Schwebel, Goetz & Sieben · 1988–1994
Represented injured plaintiffs and handled cases from initial pleadings through trial.

Rider, Bennett, Egan & Arundel · 1980–1988
Litigation partner handling insurance defense and coverage cases as well as major plaintiff matters.

EDUCATION & BAR ADMISSIONS

- J.D., cum laude, Gonzaga University School of Law, 1978
- B.A., cum laude, University of Northern Colorado, 1975
- Admitted in Minnesota (1979), Colorado (1978), and the U.S. District Court for the District of Minnesota.

SELECTED RECOGNITION & PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- Best Lawyers "Lawyer of the Year" honors in Minneapolis for Mediation (2022) and Arbitration (2017).
- American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA) and International Society of Barristers.
- Minnesota Supreme Court No-Fault Standing Committee (2001–2008) and Minnesota Trial Lawyers Association Board of Governors (2005–2007).

TEACHING & PUBLICATIONS

- Taught legal writing at Gonzaga University School of Law (1978–1980) and legal writing and appellate advocacy at William Mitchell College of Law (1982–1985).
- Contributing coauthor, Minnesota Motor Vehicle Desk Book.