

Hon. Carol E. Heckman (Ret.) to Speak on Mass Arbitration at ABA Women in Dispute Resolution (WIDR) Panel



March 14, 2025 | **PRESS RELEASES**

Hon. Carol E. Heckman (Ret.), a partner at Lippes Mathias LLP and leader of the firm’s alternative dispute resolution practice team, will serve as a panelist in the upcoming American Bar Association (ABA) Third Thursday Virtual Lunch program, Mass Arbitration, New Rules, New Roles – How Do I Position Myself?, on Thursday, March 20, at 1 p.m. ET. The event is presented by the ABA’s Section on Dispute Resolution and its Women in Dispute Resolution (WIDR) subcommittee.

The discussion will focus on mass arbitration, a process in which large numbers of individual arbitration claims are filed simultaneously against a single company, often coordinated by the same legal counsel. The panelists will explore the evolving rules, challenges, and opportunities in this area and offer guidance on how legal professionals can navigate this shifting landscape.

Judge Heckman will join a distinguished panel of dispute resolution professionals, including:

- Mary Zinsner (Moderator) – Attorney/Arbitrator, Troutman Pepper Locke LLP, Washington, D.C.
- Elizabeth Carter – Senior Vice President, Operations, JAMS, New York

- Svetlana Gitman – Division Vice President, American Arbitration Association, Chicago
- Natasha Richardson – Director, CPR Dispute Resolution, Atlanta

Visit the event webpage [HERE](#) for more information.

About Hon. Carol E. Heckman (Ret.)

With more than 40 years of experience as a trial lawyer and judge, Judge Heckman (Ret.) has an active practice as an arbitrator for the American Arbitration Association and conducts arbitrations in most major metropolitan areas with a particular concentration in New York City. In addition to arbitrations and mediations, Judge Heckman was selected as a fellow to the College of Commercial Arbitrators, an exclusive group of commercial arbitrators representing the best in the United States, where she serves as co-chair of the Education Committee and as a member of its Board of Directors. Judge Heckman is a contributing author to that group's new edition of Best Practices in Commercial Arbitration, due to be published in March of 2025.

Judge Heckman served as a magistrate judge in the Western District of New York for eight years, where she was selected to sit on the Federal Judicial Conference's Education Committee for Magistrate Judges and served as an officer in the Federal Magistrate Judges Association. She has also served as a trial attorney with the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington, D.C., an assistant U.S. attorney in Buffalo, New York, and as a law clerk for Hon. John T. Curtin, former chief judge of the Western District of New York.

About Lippes Mathias LLP

Lippes Mathias is a full-service law firm with more than 220 attorneys serving clients regionally, nationally, and internationally. With offices in Buffalo, Clarence, Albany, Long Island, New York, Rochester, Syracuse, and Saratoga Springs, N.Y.; Greater Toronto Area; Chicago, Ill.; Jacksonville and West Palm Beach, Fla.; Cleveland, Ohio; San Antonio, Texas; Oklahoma City, Okla. and Washington, D.C., the firm represents publicly and privately-owned companies, private equity and venture capital firms, independent sponsors, real estate developers, financial institutions, municipalities, governmental entities, and individuals.

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