

# Labor Contracts & Arbitration in a New Era



# Agenda

8:00 - 8:30	Registration
8:30 - 10:00	Contract Administration <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Don Maki, Mediation Services</li><li>• Anita Szczepanski, Attorney</li></ul>
10:00 - 10:30	Arbitrator Presentations & Trades Breakout Session
	General Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Jeffrey W Jacobs, Attorney, Arbitrator</li><li>• Daniel Nielsen, Arbitrator/Mediator</li><li>• Arthur Pearlstein, Arbitrator/Mediator</li><li>• Betty Widgeon, Arbitrator/Fact Finder/Mediator</li></ul>
	Trades Breakout - Robert Fetter
10:30 - 10:45	Break
10:45 - 11:45	Arbitrator Presentations & Trades – Continued
12:00 - 12:45	Lunch
12:45 - 1:15	Arbitrator & Trades Presentations – Continued
1:15 - 2:30	Arbitrator Panel Presentation of cases, discussion of outcomes
2:30 - 2:45	Break
2:45 - 3:15	Ask the Arbitrator
3:15	Conference Concludes

# Presenters

## **Robert Fetter, Attorney**

Bob has spent his entire 20-year career at Miller Cohen where he is now a partner. Miller Cohen is a workers' rights law firm. He practices union side labor law nearly exclusively. He represents a broad mix of labor unions, from public and private sector, construction unions, industrial unions, faculty unions, healthcare unions, etc. He is one of the preeminent labor attorneys in the State of Michigan representing construction trade unions.

## **Jeffrey W Jacobs, Attorney, Arbitrator**

Jeff has been a practicing attorney in Minnesota since 1980 and has been a full time labor arbitrator since 1995. He was inducted into the National Academy of Arbitrators in 2005. Prior to that he practiced extensively representing union and management clients in both the private and public sectors. Jeff is on the Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, Oregon, Montana, U.S. Virgin Islands and Washington state lists and several FMCS regional panels. He is also on numerous permanent panels in the public and private sectors, including, USPS/NALC, IRS/NTEU, NMB railroad matters, Endeavor Airlines and CWA. He has numerous published decisions in BNA arbitration reporters along with hundreds of cases on public sector lists around the country.

# Presenters

## Don Maki, Mediator

Don is a seasoned mediator with over 25 years of experience, he previously served as a mediator with Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service. He mediated labor disputes across a wide range of industries including manufacturing, construction, healthcare, transportation, public/private colleges/universities and civil rights/equal opportunity complaints. He has also done training in labor management, Contract Administration, Communication & Conflict and the training of new mediators within FMCS. Don was selected to train the employees of foreign governments in Myanmar and Bangladesh, as well as serve a three year term on the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis Business and Labor Great Lakes Regional board. Don is a trained conflict management professional and has a strong focus on problem solving, advocating fair and cost effective dispute resolution

## Daniel Nielsen, Arbitrator/Mediator

Dan is a mediator and arbitrator, with a practice based in Chicago. He was formerly employed as a mediator for the Wisconsin Employment Relations Commission, and as a professor of Labor and Industrial Relations at the University of Wisconsin's Parkside campus.

Dan has been a member of the National Academy of Arbitrators since 1991 and has served the Academy in various capacities over the years, including Chair of the CPRG and President. He currently serves as Academy's Executive Secretary-Treasurer.

# Presenters

## **Arthur Pearlstein, Arbitrator/Mediator**

Arthur Pearlstein is an arbitrator and mediator who has an extensive background in labor relations as an attorney, conflict resolution specialist, mediator, arbitrator, and law professor. He is a member of the National Academy of Arbitrators and a Fellow of the College of Labor and Employment Lawyers. Arthur serves as President of the Virginia Chapter of LERA. For over 10 years, Arthur headed the Office of Labor Arbitration at the Federal Mediation & Conciliation Service. Arthur also served FMCS as a senior mediator and General Counsel. Arthur received his J.D. with honors from Harvard Law School, holds a master's in dispute resolution from the Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution at Pepperdine University in California, and a B.A. from Haverford College in Pennsylvania.

## **Anita Szczepanski, Attorney**

Anita Szczepanski has been an attorney for 25 years practicing labor and employment law. She worked for almost 13 years at the Michigan Nurses Association as a Staff Attorney/Labor Relations Representative, handling all parts of bargaining, grievances, arbitration hearings, fact findings and other litigation with MERC, the NLRB and state and federal courts. She has been working for the Michigan Education Association since 2013, first as a UniServ Director and then she moved to her current position as Staff Attorney-Arbitration Specialist in 2018. Currently her role primarily focuses on arbitrations and fact findings for MEA local bargaining units.

# Presenters

Betty Widgeon, Arbitrator/Fact Finder/Mediator

Betty Rankin Widgeon is an Arbitrator, Fact-finder, Mediator and Court Appointed Neutral, and is a member of the National Academy of Arbitrators. She is a former Chief Judge of the 14A District Court in Washtenaw County, MI, and a former Chair of the ADR Section of the State Bar of Michigan.

Thank you to all speakers and presenters for sharing their experience and knowledge



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