

Ira F. Jaffe, Esq.

Impartial Arbitrator-Mediator
11705 Roberts Glen Court
Potomac, Maryland 20854-2100
Telephone: (301) 309-1441
Facsimile: (301) 309-2479
Email: irajaffe@gmail.com

Mr. Jaffe has been self-employed as a full-time Impartial Arbitrator and Mediator of labor and employment disputes since 1980. During that period, he has presided over more than 6,000 cases in a wide variety of industries in the private and public sectors. Mr. Jaffe serves on more than 80 permanent arbitration panels. Prior to becoming a full-time neutral, Mr. Jaffe practiced labor and employment law in Massachusetts.

Mr. Jaffe has served on eight Presidential Emergency Boards (“PEBs”), serving as Chair of five PEBs. He was appointed to serve on PEBs by Presidents George W. Bush, Barack H. Obama, Joseph R. Biden, Jr., and Donald J Trump.

In addition to grievance and interest disputes, Mr. Jaffe regularly hears cases involving ERISA issues, including challenges to withdrawal liability determinations, trustee deadlocks, PPA disputes over the terms of rehabilitation plans, and ERISA claims issues (which arise both in individual employment arbitrations and in multiemployer plan claims procedure settings). Mr. Jaffe also regularly hears cases involving FLSA class/collective actions, having presided over five such cases in recent years between federal agencies and classes of individuals represented by federal sector labor unions.

In addition to arbitrating and mediating over the past 46 years, Mr. Jaffe has served as a Special Master in an FLSA class action, as Chair of a tri-partite Dispute Resolution Committee between the PBGC and Class Counsel, as an Administrative Judge for the EEOC, as Member and Chair of the GAO Personnel Appeals Board, and as Chair of the Foreign Service Grievance Board. He also serves as a United States designated Member of the Rapid Response Labor Mechanism under Article 31-A of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (“USMCA”). Mr. Jaffe serves as the Permanent Umpire under the Police Labor Relations Act for Montgomery County, Maryland, a position that he has held since 2008.

He is a Charter Fellow in the American College of Employee Benefits Counsel, has been a Fellow in the College of Labor and Employment Lawyers since 2005, is a former Vice-President and has been a member of the National Academy of Arbitrators since 1987 and served in 1990 as National President of the Society of Federal Labor and Employee Relations Professionals.

Mr. Jaffe is a graduate of the Cornell University School of Industrial and Labor Relations (B.S. 1974) and of the George Washington University Law School (J.D. 1977). He is an inactive member of the Virginia and District of Columbia and Massachusetts Bars. He has also taught as an Adjunct Professor at George Washington University Law School and as the Jean T. McKelvey Neutral-in-Residence at the Cornell University School of Industrial and Labor Relations. In 2022, he received the GW Law Stockton Guard Alumni Award 2022 “to honor an alumnus/alumna who has graduated 40 years ago or more and has led an extraordinary career since their law school graduation and showed dedication and commitment to the betterment of the law school.”