

RESOLUTE

DISPUTE RESOLUTION NATIONWIDE

HONORABLE ELLEN R. BROSTROM (RET.) Milwaukee, WI



After a distinguished 15-year career sitting on the Milwaukee County Circuit Court, Judge Ellen R. Brostrom (ret.) stepped down from the bench in May of 2024 to pursue a full-time career providing Mediation, Arbitration and other Alternative Dispute Resolution services. Judge Brostrom, throughout her judicial career, was highly effective helping litigants reach resolution through the pre-trial mediation process. She completed mediation training at the Pepperdine University Law School's Strauss Institute of Dispute Resolution.

While on the bench, Judge Brostrom's experience included presiding over hundreds of trials, including in the civil division over personal injury, construction defects, contracts (including employment, real estate and UCC), medical and professional malpractice, products liability, insurance (including coverage and bad faith), business/commercial, employment, eminent domain, financial matters, class actions, and evictions.

Judge Brostrom is known for her ability to digest complex facts, along with her critical thinking and analytical skills. As a judge, she was noted for her excellent communication skills both written and oral.

- In addition to judicial duties, Judge Brostrom has significant adult teaching experience, including:
- Associate Dean of the Wisconsin Judicial College, 2019 – present
- Faculty of the Wisconsin Digital Evidence Bootcamp, 2020 – present
- Faculty at the National Judicial College on the Fourth Amendment, 2021

Prior to her judicial career, Judge Brostrom practiced law privately as an associate and non-equity shareholder, where she concentrated her practice on litigation of complex civil cases, including commercial, contract, employment, insurance and actuarial malpractice claims.

Professional Experience

REINHART, BOERNER, VAN DEUREN, S.C., Milwaukee, WI

Associate and then non-equity shareholder, January, 2004 – May, 2009

Litigation of complex civil cases, including commercial, contract, employment, insurance, actuarial malpractice claims and ERISA

EARLE & BROSTROM, LLP, Milwaukee, WI

Partner, April, 2002 – December, 2003

Run small law firm, including managing client relationships, budget and administrative staff. Manage litigation of product liability, employment, civil rights, and personal injury cases

GILLESPIE, ROZEN & WATSKY, Dallas, TX

Litigation Associate, November 2000 – November 2001

Assist with employment litigation, including all phases of litigation, trial preparation, case management and client interface

BRIOL & ASSOCIATES, Minneapolis, MN

Litigation Associate, September 1998 – August 2000

Assist with commercial and securities litigation, contract disputes, securities fraud and breach of fiduciary duty

CROSBY, HEAFEY, ROACH & MAY, Los Angeles, CA

Litigation Associate, August 1995 – June 1998

Assist with employment, general business and bad faith insurance litigation

Education

- JD, UCLA School of Law, 1995, Los Angeles, CA
- BA, French Literature, Boston College, 1989, Chestnut Hill, MA
Phi Beta Kappa, summa cum laude

Community Service

- Kinship Community Food Center
Consultant to the Board of Directors, 2019 - present
- MILWAUKEE BAR ASSOCIATION
Board Member, July, 2019 – 2023
President 2022-2023
- OUTREACH FOR HOPE
Board Member, JULY, 2018 – JUNE, 2021

- WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF TREATMENT COURT PROFESSIONALS
Board Member, July, 2015 – JUNE, 2018
- ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN LAWYERS
Board Member, July, 2012 – July, 2013
- COMMUNITY ADVOCATES – MILWAUKEE WOMEN’S CENTER, Milwaukee, WI
Board of Directors, September, 2006 – 2009
- LAKEFRONT DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION, Milwaukee, WI
Milwaukee County Citizen Appointee, December, 2004 – 2009

Bar Memberships & Professional Associations

- American Bar Association
- Wisconsin Bar Association
- Milwaukee Bar Association
- Association for Women Lawyers

Awards

- Wisconsin Law Journal 2015 Women in the Law