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HON. DIANE M. WELSH (RET.)

JAMS



CHAMPIONSHIP PEDIGREE Diane Welsh served as a U.S. magistrate judge in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania for 12 years. "I spent most of my time conducting settlement conferences on every type of case you see in a large urban court—antitrust, labor and employment, class actions and insurance. I conducted thousands of settlements." Since moving to JAMS, Welsh has maintained a similar docket. "I've been mediating the same breadth, but on a national level."

EXPERIENCE & EXPERTISE Welsh has been with JAMS for 13 years. "My practice is now very robust with exciting work." Her caseload is complex and diverse and she continues to do MDLs and mass torts. "I have successfully resolved medical device cases globally, including the \$2.5 billion Stryker metal-on-metal hip settlement and Wright Medical metal-on-metal hip settlement." In 2017, Welsh served as one of two special masters who divided the \$265 million settlement fund from the Amtrak 188 crash in May 2015 that killed eight and injured 200. "We conducted 135 live hearings with victims and victims' families over four months. The victims were paid in July 2017. It was an extraordinary effort and a privilege to give victims a measure of justice and the opportunity to tell their story." She was also involved in the Aetna privacy breach and resolved the 2016 \$55 million settlement with Ikea involving dressers that tipped over and killed toddlers.

FUTURE VISION Today's sophisticated lawyers and clients won't litigate without giving mediation a chance. "The trend continues to be pre-suit mediations earlier and earlier due to the enormous burden, expense, disruption and risk in terms of public disclosure that comes out during discovery. Once you file, you lose control and may even be giving up the possibility of a confidential settlement. Both sides have that interest."

