

NOAH HANFT



Mr. Hanft is the former General Counsel of MasterCard, the former Chief Executive Officer of CPR, the International Institute for Conflict Prevention & Resolution, and the Co-Founder of AcumenADR LLC, a dispute prevention and resolution platform. He serves as both an arbitrator and mediator, consults with companies on dispute resolution and litigation settlement strategy, and does expert witness assignments. Mr. Hanft has served as a neutral in complex business disputes arising from corporate and commercial transactions, securities, intellectual property, employment, insurance, real estate, consumer credit, bankruptcy/

adversary proceedings and other matters. In addition, Mr. Hanft assists general counsels (and aspiring general counsels) in a coaching capacity. In January of 2024, Mr. Hanft was the recipient of the Chuck Newman Award given by the New York State Bar Association for the ADR practitioner who demonstrates: “a devotion to the profession, brilliance of mind, generosity of heart, community-oriented, creative, selfless, compassionate, a mentor to many and a teacher to all.” In May of 2019, Mr. Hanft was the recipient of the International Academy of Mediator’s “Award of Excellence.”

Immediately prior to establishing AcumenADR LLC, Mr. Hanft was President and CEO of the International Institute for Conflict Prevention and Resolution (CPR), a non-profit organization providing dispute resolution services as well as thought leadership in the development of best practices in arbitration and mediation. Under Mr. Hanft’s leadership, CPR was widely recognized and awarded for innovation and development of best practices in both arbitration and mediation.

Mr. Hanft spent most of his professional career at MasterCard Worldwide in a variety of legal and business roles. Between 2001 and 2014, he was General Counsel and Chief Franchise Officer for MasterCard, where he was responsible for overseeing legal and regulatory affairs, public policy and compliance. Mr. Hanft also had responsibility for Franchise Development and Integrity, Global Diversity, Philanthropy, and Information Security. In addition to managing all of the company’s legal and regulatory matters, Mr. Hanft formulated and implemented the legal strategy that gave rise to MasterCard’s transformation from a consortium of financial institutions to a highly successful public company following its IPO in 2006. Mr. Hanft introduced early dispute resolution and early case assessment protocols to MasterCard effectively utilizing mediation to resolve most of the company’s major disputes. He began sitting as a mediator in 2012. During his tenure at MasterCard, Mr. Hanft also served as Corporate Secretary and U.S. General Counsel. In the early 1990s, Mr. Hanft was Senior Vice President and Assistant General Counsel of AT&T Universal Card Services, where he played a major role in the successful launch of AT&T’s payment card programs. .

Mr. Hanft began his career as an attorney with the Legal Aid Society in New York City. He has

lectured and written extensively on the importance of dispute prevention and the value of dispute resolution in resolving litigation and arbitration. Mr. Hanft is on the arbitration and

mediation panels of the American Arbitration Association, FedArb and FINRA, and is a member of the CPR Panel of Distinguished Neutrals. He also is on the AAA/ICDR panel of international arbitrators. Mr. Hanft serves on the Mediation Panels of a number of courts including, the Second Circuit, the Southern District of New York, the NYS Supreme Court, Commercial Division, and the EEOC. He serves on both the arbitration and mediation panels of the Eastern District as well. Mr. Hanft is recognized as a leading arbitrator and mediator by the National Academy of Distinguished Neutrals. He served as the Chair of the New York State Bar Association, Dispute Resolution Section until June of 2023. Mr. Hanft is also a Co-Founder of ACT-ADR, a new organization focused on the utilization of experienced business and commercial professionals to both prevent disputes and, if necessary, to resolve them using sophisticated dispute resolution processes.

Mr. Hanft is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. Mr. Hanft was elected to the Board of ACR/GNY in January of 2024. In 2012, he was named General Counsel of the Year at the ACC Global Counsel Awards.

Mr. Hanft has an LL.M from New York University School of Law in Trade Regulations, a J.D. from Brooklyn Law School, and a B.A. from American University, School of Government and Public Administration.

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