



# Hon. Richard J. Sankovitz, ret.

Milwaukee / Chicago

Since leaving the bench at the end of 2018, Judge Sankovitz has served as a full-time mediator and arbitrator. He has presided over more than 350 mediations and dozens of arbitration, special master and umpire proceedings. The settlements he has brokered total more than \$60 million in the aggregate.

Judge Sankovitz presided for 22 years as a circuit court judge in Milwaukee County. He served more than ten years in assignments devoted exclusively to civil and family disputes. He presided in almost 300 jury trials. He is among the most experienced and highly regarded former members of the faculty of the state Judicial College.

Judge Sankovitz won distinction for his efficient, fair management of courtroom proceedings and for thoughtful written decisions. Twice Judge Sankovitz was recommended by the Wisconsin Federal Nominating Commission and Wisconsin's Senators for nomination to the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit and once for nomination to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin.

Before taking the bench he was a shareholder in the law firm of Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek (now the Milwaukee office of Husch Blackwell). Before that he worked as an associate at Jenner & Block in Chicago, Illinois. His practice concentrated in business and commercial litigation. He counseled and represented clients from across the country, both plaintiffs and defendants, in a wide variety of antitrust, distribution, health care, products liability, environmental and municipal disputes. His experience as an advocate ran the gamut from arbitration to appeal, including in the United States Supreme Court.

Judge Sankovitz is a contributing author to the State Bar treatise, "Contract Law in Wisconsin," (State Bar CLE Books, 5th ed. 2019); he authored and edits Chapter 5, "Contract Interpretation and the Parol Evidence Rule."

In 2007, Judge Sankovitz presided over the historic five-week jury trial in *Thomas v. Atlantic Richfield Co., et al.*, the first in the nation in which the liability of lead pigment manufacturers was tested under a risk contribution law. For his work in this case, among other accomplishments, he was recognized by the *Wisconsin Law Journal* as a "Leader in the Law."

In 2007 and 2008, he presided over the approval of settlements in consolidated antitrust class actions involving Microsoft Corporation, and an ensuing fee dispute; his rulings were upheld on appeal in *Bettendorf v. Microsoft Corporation*, 2010 WI App 13, 323 Wis. 2d 137.

His decisions have won praise from the court of appeals. In *State v. Lipscomb*, 2009 WI App 174, 322 Wis. 2d 573 (unpublished), for example, the court wrote, "We quote the trial court's decision at length because if ever there were a trial court decision that set forth a thorough, thoughtful, reasoned basis for its ruling, it is this one."

*continued*

**Hon. Richard J. Sankovitz, Ret.**  
Resolute Systems, LLC  
1661 N. Water Street Suite 501  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

100 S. Wacker Drive, Suite 900  
Chicago, IL 60606  
rsankovitz@resolutesystems.com  
www.sankovitzmediation.com

#### Case Manager:

Michael E. Weinzierl  
Resolute Systems  
mweinzierl@resolutesystems.com  
T: 414.276.4774 (ext.125)

#### Biography

**Resolute Systems, LLC**  
January 2019 – present

**Circuit Court Judge, Milwaukee County Circuit Court**  
1996 – 2018

Presided in Civil, Family and Criminal Divisions

**Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek S.C.**  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
1986 -1996  
Shareholder

**Jenner & Block LLP**  
Chicago, Illinois  
1984 -1986  
Associate

**Hon. Terence T. Evans**  
**U.S. District Judge, E.D. Wis.**  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
1983 -1984  
Law Clerk

#### Education

Marquette University, B.A., 1980  
Harvard Law School, J.D., 1983

**Resolute Systems, LLC**



MEDIATION, ARBITRATION & ADR CONSULTING

[www.ResoluteSystems.com](http://www.ResoluteSystems.com)

### Professional Memberships

State Bar of Wisconsin  
Milwaukee Bar Association

### Mediation Training

Pepperdine University Straus Institute  
for Dispute Resolution Advanced  
Mediation Training, Eric R. Galton and  
Tracy L. Allen

Advanced Attorney - Mediator Training,  
Association of Attorney – Mediators

## Hon. Richard J. Sankovitz, ret. continued

Judge Sankovitz has extensive experience in a wide variety of disputes as a mediator, arbitrator, special master, judge and attorney:

- Contracts (including construction, employment, real estate and UCC)
- Leases
- Warranties
- Insurance (including coverage and bad faith)
- Employment (including wrongful termination and employment covenants)
- Corporate governance, shareholder and fiduciary disputes
- Partnership
- Mergers and acquisitions
- Tortious interference
- Misrepresentation and fraud (including securities)
- Antitrust, distribution and dealership
- Construction defects
- Product liability
- Professional liability (including attorney, accounting and engineering malpractice)
- Negligence and personal injury (including asbestos claims)
- Intellectual property
- Bankruptcy and receivership litigation (including preference and fraudulent conveyance)
- Class action litigation
- Consumer
- Defamation, libel and slander
- Attorney fee disputes
- Tax assessment
- Eminent Domain
- Divorce



**Resolute Systems, LLC** 

MEDIATION, ARBITRATION & ADR CONSULTING

[www.ResoluteSystems.com](http://www.ResoluteSystems.com)