

Michael L. Russell
Russell Dispute Resolution PLLC
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Curriculum Vitae

Narrative

Michael L. Russell is a mediator, lawyer, and arbitrator. He is frequently called upon to serve as a neutral in employment disputes and other civil litigation.

Mr. Russell graduated Phi Beta Kappa and Summa Cum Laude from the University of Tennessee. He received his law degree from the University of Memphis, where he graduated Magna Cum Laude and was a Humphreys Law Fellow. Mr. Russell also teaches at the Belmont University College of Law.

As a mediator, Mr. Russell has successfully mediated almost every type of civil action, from single party employment cases to nation-wide class actions. Because of his background in employment law, he is especially sought after by the labor and employment bar. His mediation experience, however, includes business disputes, law firm dissolutions, personal injury cases, intellectual property matters, and consumer class actions.

Mr. Russell has had a diverse legal career. He spent many years as a partner in a small employment law firm that grew to a state wide litigation boutique. He then became a partner in one of the oldest and largest law firms in Tennessee, where he engaged in a national litigation practice. Mr. Russell has tried jury trials for both plaintiffs and defendants and has appeared in courtrooms from New York to California. He is now a full time neutral.

Mr. Russell is also a sought after speaker and writer. He has published articles in the *American Journal of Trial Advocacy*, the *University of Memphis Law Review*, the *Ohio Northern University Law Review*, the *Seton Hall Constitutional Law Journal*, and *Employee Rights Quarterly*. His articles have been cited by courts, scholars, and in testimony before the United States Congress.

Mr. Russell has served on the boards of numerous civic and non-profit organizations, including the University of Tennessee Alumni Association, the UT Alumni Legislative Council, the National Conference of Law Reviews, the TBA Leadership Law Alumni Association, and the TBA Leadership Law Steering Committee. He is an active member of the ABA Federal Labor Standards Legislation Committee, and was a co-founder of the Howell Edmunds Jackson American Inn of Court.

In his spare time, Mr. Russell enjoys reading, travel, and spending as much time on the tennis court as he can. He and his wife, Heather, live in suburban Nashville. The Russells

have two sons, Preston and Carlisle.

Panels

American Arbitration Association Panel of Arbitrators – Employment

American Arbitration Association Panel of Arbitrators – Consumer

American Arbitration Association Panel of Mediators – Employment

United States District Court, Middle District of Tennessee

United States District Court, Western District of Tennessee

United States District Court, Eastern District of Tennessee

Education

University of Tennessee (B.A., Phi Beta Kappa, Summa Cum Laude, 1996)

University of Memphis (J.D., Magna Cum Laude, 1999)

Awards and Honors

National Academy of Distinguished Neutrals

Best Lawyers in America

Mid-South Super Lawyers

Martindale Hubbell AV Preeminent (5.0 out of 5.0)

2018 Nashville Lawyer of the Year – Labor

Top 100 Lawyers in Tennessee

Top 50 Lawyers in Nashville

Fellow, Tennessee Bar Foundation

Published Works

“Back to the Basics: Resisting Novel and Extreme Approaches to the Law of Personal Jurisdiction and the Internet,” Note, 30 *University of Memphis Law Review* 157 (1999).

“Beyond Geier: Federalism Faces an Uncertain Future,” 11 *Seton Hall Constitutional Law Journal* 69 (2000).

“The ADA and the Eleventh Amendment: Do States Have a License to Discriminate?” 28 *Ohio Northern University Law Review* 133 (2001).

“Previous Acts of Employment Discrimination: Probative or Prejudicial?” 25 *American Journal of Trial Advocacy* 297 (2001)

“Sexual Harassment and Prompt Corrective Measures: The Victim’s Right to Know,” *Employee Rights Quarterly* (Summer 2002).

Selected Speaking Engagements

Guest Panelist, Alternative Dispute Resolution/Mediation Forum, University of Memphis School of Law (November 2000).

“Federal Courts: Balancing Liberty and Safety,” United States District Courthouse, Jackson, Tennessee (November 2004).

“Religious Rights in the Workplace,” (Series of lectures) Union University, Jackson, Tennessee (January to February 2006).

“Introduction to Retaliatory Discharge,” 2007 Equal Justice Conference, Manchester Conference Center, Manchester, Tennessee (September 2007)

“Employment Law for the Non-Employment Lawyer,” 2010 Tipton County Bar Association CLE, Covington, Tennessee (October 2010).

“Wage and Hour Litigation: Point and Counter Point,” with Robert E. Boston, 16th Annual Labor & Employment Forum, Tennessee Bar Center, Nashville, Tennessee (April 2012)

“Ten Commandments for Young Trial Lawyers,” Presentation to FedEx Legal Department, Memphis, Tennessee (May 2012).

“Recent Developments in FLSA Litigation,” Wage and Hour Conference, Hilton Hotel, Memphis, Tennessee (June 2012).

“Wage and Hour Litigation: Point and Counter Point,” with Robert E. Boston, Federal Bar Association Annual Seminar, United States Courthouse, Jackson, Tennessee (August 2012)

“Subpoenas in Employment Litigation,” with James Mulroy and Hon. Diane Vescovo, Federal Bar Associate Federal Practice Seminar, University of Memphis Law School, Memphis, Tennessee (October 2012)

“Trends in Social Media Discovery in Employment Litigation,” Nashville Bar Association Employment Litigation Institute, Nashville, Tennessee (October 2012).

“Ten Commandments for Trying an Employment Case,” Nashville Bar Association Employment Litigation Institute, Nashville, Tennessee (October 16, 2014)

“Viewing the Wage and Hour Claim from the Other End of the Telescope,” DRI Employment and Labor Conference, Scottsdale, Arizona (May 2015)

“Employment Law Update,” 73rd Judicial Conference for the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, Detroit, Michigan (May 2016)

“Golden Rules for Initial Pleadings in Federal Court,” Tennessee Bar Association Federal Practice Section Annual Meeting (July 2016)

“ADEA Collective Actions are Heating Up,” ABA Federal Labor Standards Legislative Meeting, Playa Del Carmen, Mexico (February 2017)

“Ten Things Your Mediator Wants You to Know,” National Employment Lawyers Association Annual Convention, San Antonio, Texas (June 2017)

“Surviving Shrewd Scrutiny of FLSA Settlements,” 11th Annual ABA Labor and Employment Conference, Washington, D.C. (November 2017)