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FedArb Announces New MDL Advisory Board

August 12, 2020 – FedArb is pleased to announce that it has created an advisory board of some of the leading practitioners involved in multidistrict litigation (MDL). This advisory board will work with leaders in the judiciary, academia and FedArb’s MDL practitioners to contribute their experience, wisdom and leadership to foster and develop best practices to achieve superior results in this growing field of federal practice.

The members of the advisory board are FedArb panelists Hon. Ruben Castillo (former Chief Judge of the Northern District of Illinois); Hon. Royal Furgeson (former member of the Judicial Panel On Multidistrict Litigation, former U.S. District Court judge for the Northern District of Texas, and former Dean of UNT Dallas College of Law); Hon. David Levi (former Chief Judge of the Eastern District of California, former dean at Duke Law School and president of the American Law Institute); Hon. Shira Scheindlin (former U. S. District Court judge, Southern District Of New York) and Hon. Vaughn Walker (former Chief Judge of the Northern District of California).

Additionally, Hon. Jeremy Fogel (former U.S. District Court judge for the Northern District of California, former head of the Federal Judicial Center and currently Executive Director of the Berkeley Judicial Institute at Berkeley Law School); Deborah Hensler, Ph.D. (professor at Stanford Law School); and Robert Klonoff (professor at Lewis & Clark; author of a leading MDL textbook) have agreed to serve on the board.

Among the issues the MDL community is grappling with include: Allocation of attorneys’ fees in non-class action MDL settlements; Interlocutory review of MDL decisions; Issues on mandamus in the opioid cases; and the concept of a Negotiating Class, advanced by the late Francis McGovern and Bill Rubenstein.

“It’s an honor to join FedArb’s MDL advisory board and have the opportunity to address important issues in the MDL community,” said Judge Fogel. “They have an impressive roster of former federal judges and can serve as an important resource for MDL judges seeking assistance in administering, settling and acting as a monitor in MDL disputes.”

“We are proud to have MDL thought-leaders such as Judge Fogel, Deborah Hensler and Robert Klonoff serve alongside FedArb and our panelists and work with the judiciary to improve certain MDL processes,” said Ken Hagen, FedArb’s CEO.

About FedArb

For more than a decade, the leading law firms have used FedArb’s panel of more than 60 former Article III federal judges and 30 distinguished neutrals to successfully mediate and arbitrate hundreds of high profile complex civil cases--typically achieving results more efficiently and cost effectively than through litigation. FedArb’s former judges work as special masters on important MDL engagements and their panelists work with law firms on internal investigations, mock trials and on corporate monitoring assignments. FedArb provides around-the-clock administrative services and requires its neutrals to honor the parties’ deadlines, saving clients time and money.