

*Curriculum Vitae*

**ABRAHAM J. GAFNI**

**EDUCATION:**

Harvard Law School, J.D., 1963  
Yeshiva University, B.A., B.H.L., 1960  
Hebrew University, Jerusalem, 1958-59

**ADMITTED TO PRACTICE**

State of New York, 1963  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. 1965

**LEGAL EXPERIENCE:**

1994-  
Present      **Professor of Law**, Villanova University School of Law  
(Courses taught to date: Evidence, Trial Practice, Advanced Trial Practice, Dispute Resolution, Religion and Law, Interviewing and Counseling, Negotiation and Mediation Advocacy)

2000-2007      **President**, Arbitration Appeals Tribunal of the International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims

2003-2007      **Chairman** (2006-2007) and **Member** of the Appeals Panel established under the Agreement among the Foundation "Remembrance, Responsibility, and Future," The International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims and the German Insurance Association

1977-94      **Judge, Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia County** Appointed and elected 1977 retained 1987 served as Civil and Criminal Calendar Judge, and Civil and Criminal Motions Judge

1983-85      **Court Administrator of Pennsylvania**

1974-77      **Deputy District Attorney for Law, Philadelphia County** (supervising appellate and legislative matters)

1966-73      **Private Law Practice**, Piwosky and Gafni (general practice principally in business, real estate and estates law and civil litigation)

- 1965-70      **Law Clerk, Honorable J. Sydney Hoffman, Superior Court of Pennsylvania**
- 1963-65      **Attorney U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission**

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE (prior to Professorship at Villanova Law School in 1994)**

- 1974-94      **Adjunct Professor of Law, Temple University School of Law**  
5 years Professional Responsibility (Ethics)  
16 years Trial Practice  
3 years District Attorney's Clinical Program  
3 years Seminar in the Administration of Criminal Justice
- 1994          **Visiting Professor of Law, Temple University School of Law**  
(Professional Responsibility Ethics)
- 1988-94      **Adjunct Professor of Law, Villanova University School of Law**  
(Trial Practice)

**LECTURER ON VARIOUS LEGAL TOPICS IN PROGRAMS SPONSORED BY (Selected):**

**ADR Options, Inc.**

**American Bar Association**

**American Arbitration Association**

**American Law Institute-American Bar Association**

**American Judicature Society**

**Dispute Resolution Institute**

**Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service**

**U.S. Department of Justice**

**Federal Trade Commission**

**National Institute of Trial Advocacy**

**Rutgers School of Law, Camden, N.J.**

**Pennsylvania Bar Institute**

**Pennsylvania College of the Judiciary**

**Pennsylvania District Attorneys Association**

**Philadelphia Bar Association**

**Lehigh County Bar Association**

**Montgomery County Bar Association**

**Chester County Bar Association**

**Pennsylvania Association of Trial Lawyers**

**Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants**

**Professional Education Systems, Inc.**

**Society for Professionals in Dispute Resolution**

**State of Israel, Labor Law Judges and Social Welfare Ministry**

**Annenberg Research Institute for Judaic and Near Eastern Studies**

**Wills Eye Institute Medical- Legal Program**

**Training programs for law firms**

## **LEGAL ACTIVITIES:**

### **I. Offices in Professional Organizations (Selected – Past and Present):**

1. Chair, Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee, Pennsylvania Bar Association, 1985-86
2. Vice Chair, Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, Appellate Court Rules Committee, 2008- 2010 (Member since 2004)
3. Vice Chair, Professionalism Committee, Pennsylvania Bar Association, 2009
4. Chair, Professionalism Committee, Pennsylvania Bar Association , 2010-
5. Chair, Governor of Pennsylvania's Task Force on Medical Malpractice Insurance Crisis, 2002-03
6. Commissioner, Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, 1983-85
7. Chair, Clients Security Fund Committee, Philadelphia Bar Association, 1976
8. Vice Chair, Committee on Victim Compensation, Philadelphia Bar Association, 1975
9. Secretary, Criminal Justice Section, Philadelphia Bar Association, 1976
10. Member, Board of Trustees, Volunteers for the Indigent, 1987-92

11. Member, Executive Committee, Dispute Resolution Committee, Association of American Law Schools
12. Steering Committee, Pennsylvania Futures Commission for Justice, 1992-present
13. Co-chair Committee to Plan Rule of Law program for the Philadelphia Bar Association in 1998

**II. Membership in Professional Committees (Selected-Past and Present):**

1. Supreme Court of Pennsylvania Appellate Court Procedural Rules Committee,
2. Committee on Fairness in the Legal System, Philadelphia Bar Association (present)
3. Council on Judicial Independence, PA Bar Association (present)
4. Former Member Judicial Ethics Advisory Committee, University of Pennsylvania Law School Center on Professionalism
5. Member, Alternative Dispute Resolutions Committee, Philadelphia Bar Association
6. Member, Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee, Pennsylvania Bar Association
7. Member, Civil Litigation & Trial Skills Advisory Committee, Pennsylvania Bar Institute
8. Member, Judicial Independence Committee, Pennsylvania Bar Association
9. Member, Professional Liability Committee, Pennsylvania Bar Association
10. Member, Attorney General's Family Violence Task Force, 1985-1987
11. Member, Supreme Court of Pennsylvania Criminal Procedural Rules Committee, 1976-78
12. Member, Committee on Merit Judicial Retention, Philadelphia Bar Association, 1975
13. Member, Special Committee on Judicial Selection, Retention and Evaluation, Philadelphia Bar Association, 1975
14. Member, Association for Conflict Resolution
15. Member, International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Judges
16. Member, Medical Ethics Committee, Philadelphia Geriatric Center

**PROFESSIONAL AWARDS (Selected):**

Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges, Distinguished Service  
 Pennsylvania District Attorneys Association, Outstanding Service  
 Philadelphia Bar Association, Distinguished Service  
 Association of Administrators of Special Courts, Distinguished Service  
 Cesare Beccaria Award presented by the Criminal Justice Section of the Philadelphia Bar Association and Justinian Society  
 Philadelphia Bar Association (Special Presentation upon retirement in 1994)  
 Louis D. Brandeis Law Society (Portrait and Annual Law Student Scholarship)  
 "Best Lawyers in America"- Alternative Dispute Resolution (since 2005)

## ARTICLES:

“Foreword” *The Model Rules: Practitioner’s Guide to Avoiding Malpractice*” Temple Law Quarterly, Vol. 61, No. 4, 1988

“*Guilty Plea Colloquies in Pennsylvania*,” Pennsylvania Bar Association Quarterly, April 1977 (with J. Shellenberger)

“*Criminal Trial Problems, Parts I, II and III*,” State College of the Judiciary, 1978-79 video program to train judges for courtroom role in criminal courts)

“*Halufot Shonot L’Pitaron Sichsuchim: Etgar L’Ma’arechet Hamishpat B’Yisrael*” (*Alternative Dispute Resolution: A Challenge for the Justice System in Israel*) Judges Journal of Israel, April 1997.

## Publications Prepared for Education of the Judiciary and the Bar (Selected):

“Fifth and Sixth Amendments and the Exclusionary Rules,” State College of the Judiciary, 1978-81 (115-page review and analysis of federal and state law)

“Abolition of the Indicting Grand Jury Effects Many Procedural Changes,” *The Retainer*, January 9, 1976

“Pennsylvania Should Consider Uniform Certification of Questions of Law Act,” (*The Legal Intelligencer*, October 2, 1987, reprinted in the *Pennsylvania Law Journal-Reporter*, December 21, 1987)

“*Advocacy in Arbitration*” (prepared for the Pennsylvania Bar Institute in 1999)

“*Creative Uses of ADR*” (PBEC 1996)

“The Expert Witness: Preparation and Presentation.” (prepared for the Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants, November 2005)

“The Pre-Mediation Submission—a Powerful, Invaluable Tool” (*The Legal Intelligencer*, July 19, 2004)

“The Mediation Client: Participant or Observer” (*The Legal Intelligencer*, September 20, 2004)

“Mediation Presents Opportunities to Meet Objectives” (*The Legal Intelligencer*, November 15, 2004)

“Pointers for Negotiating the Mediation Agreement” (*The Legal Intelligencer*, January 31, 2005)

“Can Parties be Compelled to Act in Good Faith in Mediation” (*The Legal Intelligencer*, March 21, 2005)

- “Mediators: Complying with Multiple Codes of Conduct” (*The Legal Intelligencer*, May 16, 2005)
- “Things for You to Consider Prior to Arbitration Day” (*The Legal Intelligencer*, July 18, 2005)
- “Is There Really Confidentiality in Alternate Dispute Resolution?” (*The Legal Intelligencer*, September 19, 2005)
- “Is There Really an Assurance of Privilege in Mediation?” (*The Legal Intelligencer*, November 21, 2005)
- “Who is The Mediation Privilege Designed to Protect Anyway?” (*The Legal Intelligencer*, April 17, 2006)
- “Issues That Should be Resolved Before You Arbitrate,” Part I (*The Legal Intelligencer*, June 19, 2006)
- “Issues That Should be Resolved Before You Arbitrate,” Part II (*The Legal Intelligencer*, August 21, 2006)
- “Issues That Should be Resolved Before You Arbitrate,” Part III (*The Legal Intelligencer*, October 16, 2006)
- “What is the *functus officio* Doctrine in Arbitration” (*The Legal Intelligencer*, December 18, 2006)
- “Creating an Arbitration Procedure for Holocaust Insurance Claims” (*The Legal Intelligencer*, April 16, 2007)
- “Be Aware of Agreements So You Don’t Lose Your Right to Arbitrate” (*The Legal Intelligencer*, June 18, 2007)
- “Who Makes the Decision of Whether and How to Arbitrate” (*The Legal Intelligencer*, August 20, 2007)
- “Some Suggestions for Trying an Arbitration Case” (*The Legal Intelligencer*, October 15, 2007)
- “Complying With the Requirements of the Arbitration Agreement” (*The Legal Intelligencer*, December 17, 2007)
- “Arbitration Can Limit Access to Third-Party Information” (*The Legal Intelligencer*, April 1, 2008)
- “Lawyers Have Love-Hate Bond With Limited Appellate Review” (*The Legal Intelligencer*, May 19, 2008)

- “The Right of a Non-Signatory to Enforce an Arbitration Clause” (*The Legal Intelligencer*, July 21, 2008)
- “Written Opinions in Arbitration Aren’t a Given” (*The Legal Intelligencer*, September 22, 2008)
- “Appealing Arbitration Awards based on Manifest Disregard of the Law” (*The Legal Intelligencer*, November 17, 2008)
- “The Value of the Opening Statement in Mediation” (*The Legal Intelligencer*, March 16, 2009)
- “When Are Directors Subject to Mandatory Arbitration Provisions?” (*The Legal Intelligencer*, May 18, 2009)
- “Concluding the Mediation When Agreement Is Reached” (*The Legal Intelligencer*, July 20, 2009)
- “Tips for Concluding the ‘Unsuccessful’ Mediation” (*The Legal Intelligencer*, September 21, 2009)
- “Benefits of Using the Mediation Caucus for Parties and Mediators” (*The Legal Intelligencer*, November 13, 2009)
- “Mediators Need to Be Mindful of Role’s Potential Pitfalls” (*The Legal Intelligencer*, April 19, 2010)
- “Arbitration Appeals Based Upon Manifest Disregard of the Law” (*The Legal Intelligencer*, June 21, 2010)
- “Arbitrator Can Decide Validity of Arbitration Agreements, Justices Rule” (*The Legal Intelligencer*, August 16, 2010)