Specialty Courts

Commercial Division

Since its creation in 1995, the Commercial Division of the New York State Supreme Court has transformed business litigation and made the State a preferred forum for complex business disputes. Renowned as one of the world's most efficient venues for the resolution of commercial disputes and located in the world's leading financial center, the Commercial Division is available to businesses of all sizes, both inside and outside the State of New York.

The Commercial Division features judges with commercial law expertise who are familiar with complex contract concepts, securities (including derivatives and other specialty instruments) and business organizations (including numerous international structures), and who have a sophisticated understanding of globalization, international trade and application of laws of foreign jurisdictions, when required. It embraces advanced courtroom technology for trials, provides for efficient resolution of discovery disputes and offers accelerated adjudication.

Through the work of the Commercial Division Advisory Council—a committee of commercial practitioners, corporate in-house counsel and jurists devoted to the Division's excellence—the Commercial Division has functioned as an incubator, becoming a recognized leader in court system innovation, and demonstrating an unparalleled creativity and flexibility in development of rules and practices.

In 2022, the Commercial Division adopted new procedural rules proposed by the Advisory Council on mandatory settlement conferences; discovery of electronically stored information; proportionality and reasonableness; early case assessment disclosures and analysis; electronic submission of papers; statements of material facts in connection with summary judgment motions; interlineation of responsive pleadings; use of remote appearance technology to avoid adjournments of conferences; the form of motion papers; information on cases; and settlements and discontinuances.

The Advisory Council organized a virtual lunchtime lecture series during June 2022 for summer interns working with Commercial Division Justices and summer associates at law firms throughout New York State. The goal of the series was to educate future lawyers about the Commercial Division and commercial practice, the wide variety of cases that come before the Commercial Division, and the value of clerking, interning and litigating in the Commercial Division.

The Advisory Council also participated in a virtual program entitled "The Benefits of the Commercial Division to the State of New York" which The Business Council of New York State, Inc. presented and recorded on June 7, 2022 for its members as well as the Executive and Legislative Branches of the New York State government, the business and legal communities and the press. The program discussed improvements that have been made to the Commercial Division's rules, procedures and operations to be responsive to the business community's needs, and to make the business litigation process in New York more efficient and predictable. A more hospitable and attractive environment for business litigation encourages businesses to maintain their presence in New York State or relocate to the Empire State.

For more information, visit:
http://ww2.nycourts.gov/courts/comdiv/index.shtml