
Mediator Biography

Stephen Koplan, Esquire

Senior Vice President, The Wessel Group, Washington, DC

Stephen Koplan joined the Wessel Group as Senior Vice President in March 2007 after serving as a Commissioner on the U.S. International Trade Commission for over 8 years. He was nominated to the U.S. International Trade Commission by President Clinton and confirmed by the U.S. Senate on July 30, 1998. While at the Commission he served two separate terms as Chairman, from June 2004 to June 2006, and from June 2000 to June 2002.

He began his career as a prosecutor in the Tax Division of the U.S. Department of Justice. While in the Division, he later defended civil suits for refund. He served in the Department for a total of 12 years (Tax Division, five years; Civil Rights Division, seven years). While there, he gained both criminal and civil trial experience and ultimately headed up a section in the Civil Rights Division responsible for the enforcement of those laws intended to assure nondiscrimination in federal financial assistance programs. His litigation experience at the Department was gained in trials conducted in Federal District Courts throughout the United States. Subsequently, his litigation experience included a senior position at the Small Business Administration where he had responsibility for civil suits brought in Federal District Courts to enforce the Small Business Investment Act and regulations. In the private sector, he spent over six years as the Legislative Representative for tax and international trade issues for the AFL-CIO.

In Congress, he was staff attorney for three years to former U.S. Senator Lee Metcalf (D-Montana), where he was responsible for all federal tax and foreign trade legislation referred to the Senate Committee on Finance. Senator Metcalf was a member of that Committee. He later returned to the Senate to serve as the General Counsel of what was formerly the Post Office and Civil Service Committee. His business experience includes five years as the Vice President of Governmental Affairs of Joseph E. Seagram & Sons, Inc., where he directed the federal legislative and regulatory operations of the corporation with an emphasis on foreign trade and tax. He has also been a principal in two Washington, D.C., law firms, Bayh & Connaughton and the McNair Law Firm, for a total of over five years.

He is originally from Massachusetts. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Brandeis University, a Juris Doctor degree from Boston University School of Law, and a Master of Laws (in Taxation) degree from the Graduate Tax Program of New York University School of Law.

