



DONALD H. PASSENGER

State Bar of Michigan ADR Section
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Donald H. Passenger (he prefers just “Don”) is an attorney with decades of experience. He regularly handles complex litigation in federal and state courts, and he helps medium, small and even mom and pop types with practical advice for their business, real estate, trust and estate planning.

Before returning to private practice in 2017, Don served as a District Court Judge for over 20 years, presiding over many thousands of trials and tens of thousands of motions. As a leader in his six judge court, he served as the Chief Judge Pro-Tem for 12 years. He was also considered a leader-among-judicial-leaders statewide as he was chosen by his peers for a six-year stint on the Michigan District Judges executive committee, culminating in his selection as President in 2012.

In 2015, the City Attorney of Grand Rapids invited him to join her Enforcement Division where his energetic personality and thorough preparation worked to the people’s advantage in dozens of jury trials and hundreds of non-jury trials.

Don always stays active and involved in the legal and non-legal communities. He has been a member of ICLE’s Technology Law and Training Advisory Board and has been a frequent presenter on many topics for the State Bar of Michigan, ICLE, the Supreme Court Administrative Office, and the Michigan Judicial Institute. Don was selected by the Michigan Supreme Court to serve on the Collections Advisory Subcommittee. He has been active for many years in a variety of organizations in the West Michigan community. For over twenty years, Don served as a volunteer staff member at the Great Lakes Burn Camp where he worked with pediatric burn survivors as they regained self-esteem and confidence in a camp setting.

Don served as an adjunct professor at Davenport University in the Computer Information Systems and Legal Studies Departments from 1999 to 2003. He then served Davenport University for over 15 years as a member of its paralegal advisory team. In that role, he helped the program pass accreditation review several times. He has also been hired as the technical editor on dozens of published technology books.

