

Local Attorney Speaks About Arbitration and Consumer Rights

Cliff Rieders of the law firm Rieders, Travis, Humphrey, Waters & Dohrmann told Philadelphia Bar Association that predispute arbitration clauses erode consumers' rights.

WILLIAMSPORT, Pa. - Cliff Rieders, a partner in the law firm of Rieders, Travis, Humphrey, Waters & Dohrmann, Williamsport, PA, was a featured speaker at the Philadelphia Bar Association seminar held in Philadelphia on May 22, 2017. Rieders' topic, and one of his areas of expertise, was Predispute Arbitration Clauses. The seminar was hosted by Judge Richard Klein, formerly of the Superior Court and now a professional mediator.

Predispute Arbitration Clauses are contained in a variety of consumer and other agreements. They require the signer to waive their Seventh Amendment right to trial by jury and to submit to arbitration, if a dispute arises between the consumer and the company. Predispute arbitration language is in widespread use by banks, credit card companies, cell phone companies, nursing homes, and many others.

"Many judges and lawyers -- and I am one of them -- call these agreements unconscionable," Rieders said. "This is why I have been one of the leaders in the writing of legislation that would protect consumers and in arguing cases that would preserve the Seventh Amendment right to trial by jury." Efforts to preserve consumer rights have been stymied by the United State Supreme Court, Rieders said.

Cliff Rieders is Past President of the Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association, now called the Pennsylvania Association for Justice, and is admitted to a number of state and federal courts, including the Supreme Court of the United States. The attorney is certified as a Civil Trial Advocate by the National Board of Trial Advocacy, a life member of the American Law Institute, and graduated from New York University Phi Beta Kappa and Georgetown University Law School.