NCLDB MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

NCLDB welcomes Joseph (Joe) Berman the new General Counsel of the Massachusetts Board of Bar Overseers. He succeeds Michael Fredrickson, former president of NCLDB, who is now happily retired.

We asked Joe a few questions to help us get to know him better.

Please describe your work history and how you become interested in attorney discipline.

After clerking for a federal judge in Denver in 1990, I spent 25 years as a commercial litigator. In 1993, I joined the Boston law firm of Posternak, Blankstein & Lund as an associate. Much of my work focused on representing attorneys in civil malpractice cases and disciplinary matters. I instantly loved the work, finding it intellectually and professionally challenging and rewarding. In 2015, my then-law firm, Looney & Grossman, where I was a partner, dissolved. I had long been interested in ADR, so I started working full time as a mediator and arbitrator. I would have been happy to continue that work indefinitely, until Mike announced his retirement and this position opened.

What do you find most rewarding about working in this area?

As I mentioned, I find this work intellectually and professionally challenging and rewarding. I care a great deal about the legal community. I have been a lawyer my entire adult life. I want to encourage more college students to consider the law as a career. But, the profession faces revolutionary changes in the future due to technology, globalization and economics. I want to play a role in helping the profession adapt to these changes.

How many staff members do you supervise and how many are attorneys?

I supervise a staff of three lawyers and two para-professionals.

What are some of your hobbies and interests?

My hobbies include: skiing, sailing, bicycling, tennis and reading.

What is your most enjoyable memory?

That's easy: my wedding day (21 years ago). In second and third place would be the birth of our two children, although those were such exhausting experiences that those memories are a little blurry.