



Joanna Jacobs has practiced law in a wide variety of settings before rejoining the Department of Justice to head the Office of Dispute Resolution. After a clerkship on the D.C. Court of Appeals, Joanna joined the Department of Justice in the Criminal Division in Washington D.C. She garnered considerable trial experience in U.S. Attorney's Offices in D.C. and Philadelphia and the Organized Crime and Racketeering Strike Force in Newark, N.J. She has prosecuted street crime, fraud, police corruption and complex labor union racketeering cases, including the organized crime leadership of some of the most corrupt Teamster locals in northern New Jersey and New York.

Ms. Jacobs later shifted her focus to complex civil litigation, initially for the federal government and then entered private practice handling both affirmative litigation, in the area of environmental cleanups, as well as defensive litigation, in discrimination, tort and contract cases. In the late 1990's, she began to focus on alternative dispute resolution in complex litigation, serving as a mediator, arbitrator and advocate in state and federal courts in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, and teaching at Rutgers School of Law and Georgetown University Law Center. In 2005-2006, just before returning to the Department of Justice to head the Office of Dispute Resolution, Joanna was a legal consultant in Bulgaria, developing court referred mediation programs in anticipation of the country's entry into the European Union, as well as lecturing and training attorneys, judges and law students in mediation techniques. Joanna has also trained attorneys and judges in Pakistan, Bangladesh and Russia in trial advocacy and ADR through the Department's international programs.