

L.A. SETTLEMENT GURU TO RETIRE FROM THE BENCH

On September 13, 2011, the Daily Journal reported that Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Peter Lichtman Jr. has announced that he will retire from the bench on November 30. Lichtman was a fixture in the complex civil courthouse and was tapped last year to run the county's settlement program. He also recently divvied up \$200 million in settlement funds to victims of the 2008 Metrolink crash and tried to resolve the bitter divorce dispute between Los Angeles Dodgers owner Frank McCourt and his ex-wife Jamie McCourt.

Brian Kabateck, a prominent plaintiffs' attorney with Kabateck Brown Kellner LLP in Los Angeles, said he was "really surprised" at the news and called it "a big loss" for attorneys who want to settle their cases. He speculated that Lichtman would do well as an arbitrator and mediator. "He's going to be an instant superstar," Kabateck said.