

JAMES M. HARKLESS

3029 M St. N.W.
Washington, DC 20007
(202) 965-3588

SS# 370-28-5931

James M. Harkless is a full time labor arbitrator and active member of the D.C. Bar. He currently serves as a permanent arbitrator with employers and unions in various industries, including steel, airlines, hotel, public utilities, newspapers, and public employment. He also is Impartial Chairman of the IUE-General Motors Legal Services Plan. In 1990, he was appointed to the Foreign Service Grievance Board.

Mr. Harkless has been an arbitrator since 1970. He also has been a mediator, fact-finder and arbitrator in numerous interest disputes, an arbitrator or special master in Title VII discrimination cases, and has served on several Public Law Boards in the railroad industry. In 1972 and 1974, the president appointed him to serve on Special Railroad Emergency Boards.

Mr. Harkless was Chairman of the D.C. Board of Labor Relations from 1974 to 1978. He also was a member of the Prince George's Maryland Public Employee Labor Relations Board from 1973 to 1978, where he was on the Impasse Panel.

Mr. Harkless attended Harvard, where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1952, and his J.D. degree in 1955. After graduation from law school, Mr. Harkless clerked for a Justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court. From 1957 to 1961, he practiced law with a firm in Boston, specializing in labor relations. During 1961, he was Counsel for a Subcommittee of the U.S. House Education and Labor Committee. Then, from 1962 to 1964, he served as an Appellate Court attorney with the NLRB arguing in seven of the U.S. Courts of Appeals.

After that, Mr. Harkless was Assistant to the Commissioner of the Bureau of Customs where he was presented the Treasury Department Honor Award. In 1966 and 1967, Mr. Harkless was Executive Secretary of the Office of Economic Opportunity. In the three years prior to becoming an Arbitrator, Mr. Harkless was with a Washington consulting firm specializing in manpower and training programs, as Senior Associate and Vice President.

Mr. Harkless is admitted to practice law in Michigan, Massachusetts and the District of Columbia. He is a member of the National Academy of Arbitrators (Vice President 1987-89), the Industrial Relations Research Association, the American Arbitration Association, and the International Society for Labor Law and Social Security.