



AMERICAN **BAR** ASSOCIATION

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Dispute Resolution Section

MEMBER DIRECTORY OF  
ADR PRACTITIONERS  
**WOMEN IN DISPUTE RESOLUTION  
COMMITTEE**

September 2023

**EXPAND YOUR LISTS**

**QUALITY AND EXPERTISE COME  
IN ALL BACKGROUNDS**

**HIRE A DIVERSE NEUTRAL**



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*Welcome to the 2023 edition of the Directory of ADR Practitioners of Women in Dispute Resolution, a committee of the American Bar Association's Section of Dispute Resolution. We are pleased to present information provided by our members to aid the users of alternative dispute resolution services in finding qualified, diverse neutrals.*

*This Directory is one concrete action toward achieving the goals of the ABA's House of Delegates [Resolution 105](#) (adopted 2018) encouraging the selection and use of diverse neutrals.*

*Here are some tips for using the Directory:*

- *WIDR relies upon regional chairs in many cities and states, and this Directory includes a current list of regional chairs, by state. These members may be able to assist you in finding an ADR practitioner, speaker, or mentor in a particular jurisdiction.*
- *The names in the table of contents are hyperlinked to that named individual's professional biography.*
- *This PDF document is searchable.*
- *Many WIDR Members have a regional, national or international practices, and offer virtual and in person ADR services.*

*Please feel encouraged to share this Directory as a means of identifying prospective neutrals with diverse backgrounds. The information provided has been supplied by WIDR Members, and Directory users are responsible for vetting any neutral that is considered and appointed.*

**Women In Dispute Resolution**

*Dr. Katherine Simpson, Chair*

*Lisa Simpson Hoover, Vice Chair*

*Archangela (Angela) DeSilva, Vice Chair*



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AMERICAN **BAR** ASSOCIATION

Dispute Resolution Section

## Table of Contents

Aaronson, Maxine .....	13
Abernathy, Alesia .....	13
Abrahamson, Laura .....	13
Acosta, Sylvia Grace .....	14
Aliotti, Melissa .....	14
Andler, Gail.....	14
Andrews, Susan .....	15
Axelrod, Sheryl .....	15
Bagger, Paula .....	16
Banke, Olagbegi-Oloba Victoria.....	16
Barakat Friedman, Myrna .....	17
Berkoff, Leslie .....	17
Best, Kimberly.....	18
Beyers, Maureen .....	18
Blankman, Leslie .....	19
Borrasso C.Arb, Ava .....	19
Boyd, Felicia.....	20
Breen-Greco, Ann .....	20
Brook, Lisa .....	21
Brown, Herschenia.....	21
Brown Coulter, Claudia .....	22
Callahan, Tracy.....	22
Calvert, Maren .....	23
Carlson, Jayne.....	23
Chatman, Joi.....	24
Choudhary, Reena .....	24
Chu, Sandra .....	24
Cochran, Suzanne .....	25
Cohen, Stephanie.....	25
Cohen, Jane.....	26
Coleman, Deborah.....	26
Coleman, Mary .....	27

Crimmins, Virginia .....	27
Culbert, Mary.....	28
DeSilva, Archangela .....	28
Doak, Debra .....	29
Dodd, Christine .....	29
DuComb, Darby.....	30
Echevarria, Margarita .....	30
Eckman, Amy.....	31
Egbunike-Umegbolu, Chinwe.....	31
Emery, Paula.....	31
Espinosa, Sarah .....	32
Esterman, Pamela.....	32
Ettingoff, Cindy .....	33
Fabian Story, Kellye.....	33
Farber, Felicia .....	34
Finch, Kate .....	34
Flores Rueda, Cecilia .....	34
Friedman, Olivia .....	35
Frisbie, Teresa.....	35
Galloway, Patricia.....	36
Gentile, Melinda (Mindy) .....	36
Gilsdorf, Mary-Jo .....	37
Glick, Ruth.....	37
Goikhman, Dorit.....	38
Gordon, Melinda.....	38
Gordon, Elaine.....	38
Gragg, CVA, MAFF, Melissa .....	39
Greathouse, Missy .....	39
Greenwald, Nancy.....	40
Griesing, Francine.....	40
Gruszecki, Cara.....	41
Guillon, Stacy.....	41
Gupta, Rachel.....	42



Gupta, Angela.....	42
Guthrie, Susan.....	43
Hall, Linda.....	43
Harris Hoss, Felicia.....	44
Hemminger, Pamela.....	44
Hicks, Elliot.....	45
Hilfer, Kyle-Beth.....	45
Hollis McGruder, Patricia.....	46
Hoover, Lisa Simpson.....	46
Howard Wilkinson, Chanta.....	47
Hristova, Velislava.....	47
Hylton, Deborah.....	48
Johnson, Kelly Overstreet.....	48
Jones, LeeAnn.....	49
Kaster, Laura.....	49
Kechiyants, Tatevik.....	50
Kells, Rebecca.....	50
Korch, Shelley.....	51
Kourlis, Hon. Rebecca.....	51
Kurtz, Ruth.....	52
Lawler, Jean.....	52
Lawlor Goyette, Anne M.....	53
Lee, Jiyun Cameron.....	53
Levine Powers, Erica.....	54
Lippis, Monica.....	54
Love, Lisa.....	55
Lupo, Jennifer.....	55
Lynch Eisenberg, Dina.....	56
Madigan, Denise.....	56
Maldonado, Ana Christina.....	57
Mangiaracina, Melissa.....	57
Marshall, Carol.....	57
Masucci, Deborah.....	58

Maxwell, Jan .....	58
Mayer, Sylvia.....	59
McBride, Meredith .....	59
McFarlane, Heather .....	60
Meyer, Judith.....	60
Michler, Linda.....	61
Milanese Gunn, Loretta .....	61
Mintz Goski, Sheryl .....	62
Mitchell, Joyce .....	62
Montenegro, Sandra .....	63
Moore-Grant, Tracy.....	63
Morgan, Elizabeth Ann "Betty" .....	64
Moss-Moore, Gennea .....	64
Neville, Cara Lee .....	65
Newman, Margery .....	65
Panarella, Merriann.....	66
Paulson, Kristi .....	66
Phan, Jasmine .....	67
Pheiffer, Alexis .....	67
Philip, Sasha .....	68
Pruett, Amy.....	68
Rajan, Anoushka .....	69
Ram, Harshitha.....	69
Ramey, Marianne .....	70
Ratliff, Rebekah .....	70
Ravindra, Geetha .....	71
Rendon, Josefina .....	71
Rigato-Piekarski, Juliana.....	72
Riley, Michele.....	72
Roaché, DeAndra.....	73
Roberg, Marilee .....	73
Romeo, Lisa .....	74
Roslund, Carol .....	74

Saltmarsh, Sara .....	74
Samaras, Harrie .....	75
Sambold, Ana .....	75
Samuels, Valerie .....	76
Sandford, Sara.....	76
Savitt, Lisa.....	77
Saxe, Deborah.....	77
Scheindlin, Shira.....	78
Schneider, Andrea .....	78
Selby, Myra .....	78
Selleck, Joann.....	79
Shapiro, Deborah .....	79
Simpson, Katherine.....	80
Sloan Maccini, Kristen .....	80
Smith, Lisa.....	81
Snyder, Joan .....	81
Sollod, Holly .....	82
Somers, Jeri .....	82
Soni, Reena .....	82
Spiegel, Linda .....	83
Stanley, Esq., Joanne "Jo" Colbert.....	83
Starr, Judith.....	83
Stauffer, Caroline .....	84
Stearns Johnsen, Joan.....	84
Stern, Rebecca.....	85
Stevenson, Laurel .....	85
Storrow, Rebecca.....	86
Suleiman, Aisha.....	86
Taylor, Kimberly.....	87
Telfer, Jeanine .....	87
Tella, Courtney .....	87
Tenner, David .....	88
Timken, Nelson.....	88

Timmons, Lisa.....	89
Tippin, Elizabeth.....	89
Trapp, Randa.....	90
Turitz, Gilda.....	90
Tuychieva, Shakhzoda.....	91
Ukabiala, Chinyere.....	91
Vilendrer, Ellie.....	92
Walker, Julie.....	92
Waugh, Brenda.....	93
Weiner, Conna.....	93
Weinstein, Robyn.....	94
Weiss, Holly.....	94
Wey, Emily.....	95
Williams-Griffin, LaJuanda.....	95
Woodward, Danae.....	96
Wyre, Arnettia.....	96
Zinsner, Mary.....	97

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Introducing Lisa Brook: Unraveling Disputes, One Harmony at a Time! With a Harvard Law School Executive Education certificate in Negotiation and Mediating Disputes, Lisa specializes in civil litigation, real estate, estate planning, and business formation. As a highly skilled attorney and certified mediator, she brings individuals, corporations, and businesses together to harmonize their differences. Lisa's pro bono work at the Central Virginia Legal Aid Society, Mediation Center of Charlottesville, and active involvement in the Virginia Mediation Network showcase her commitment to resolving conflicts. Join Lisa's crescendo of success in dispute resolution!

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Claudia is a mediator who practices online and has clients all across the country. Her practice areas are family, education and faith-based disputes. She was a public school teacher for 21 years and when colleagues and administrators kept coming to her to help settle disputes, she decided to attend Pepperdine Law to study the art and science of mediation. She is an active member of the Western Justice Center's Program Advisory Council and is on the Board of Directors for the Southern California Mediation Association.

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Reena Choudhary is a certified mediator and is working as a volunteer mediator at Mediation and Restorative Services (MARS), USA. She has adjudged various international Mediation and Negotiation Competitions and delivered lectures on Mediation as well. She is also working on international projects to spread the importance of ADR and particularly Mediation across the globe.

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Sandra Chu is a Canadian attorney focusing solely on alternative dispute resolution in Rockford and the greater Chicago area. Sandra offers private mediation, including family and workplace mediation and is a volunteer mediator with the Center for Conflict Resolution. Sandra offers both online and in-person mediation. Sandra is also an arbitrator and serves as a panelist with FINRA and the AAA Uninsured/Underinsured Motorist List. Sandra is a member of the Academy of Professional Family Mediators and the Association of Conflict Resolution. Sandra began her legal career as a litigator in Toronto, practicing civil litigation before relocating to Rockford.



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Deborah's interest in ADR grew alongside her work litigating complex commercial cases, including antitrust, intellectual property and technology disputes. For the past 10 years, she has run a solo practice offering mediation and arbitration services, as well as counseling and representation on legal ethics. In mediations, Deborah helps parties generate options, assess risks and benefits and negotiate and craft durable settlements. When working as an arbitrator, Deborah actively manages the proceedings to assure efficient preparation and submission of cases and a fair hearing. She has handled matters in many business sectors, including manufacturing, distribution, publishing, transportation, software development, and franchising.

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Mary Kate Coleman serves as a mediator and arbitrator, privately and for various organizations and courts. She has been engaged in the private practice of law as a civil litigation attorney since 1986, primarily focusing on the defense of asbestos cases and insurance defense litigation. She received a certificate for attending the June 2004 Mediation Workshop from Harvard Law School's Program of Instruction for Lawyers. Ms. Coleman is a FINRA trained arbitrator. She chaired her local bar association's ADR Committee and chaired/co-chaired her state bar association's ADR Committee. She frequently writes and speaks on ADR topics.

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After more than 15 years of representing both individuals and business in federal and state court across the country, beginning in 2018, Virginia "Ginnie" Crimmins started providing alternative dispute resolution services, including as a mediator, in both state and federal courts. Ginnie is currently an approved mediator with the United States District Court for the Western District of Missouri, United States District Court for the District of Kansas, and United States District Court for the Southern District of Illinois and a volunteer mediator with the EEOC. She also serves as an arbitrator for the AAA, BBB, and FINRA.

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Christine Dodd is an experienced attorney and mediator who has been living and practicing in Idaho, California and Alabama since 2013. She has completed over 200 hours of mediation training and enjoys contributing to the community through her volunteer efforts with the Morgan County Alabama Drug Court and the Idaho Volunteer Lawyers Program. She is an active member of the Idaho State bar.

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Leveraging more than 38 years' experience as an esteemed construction lawyer and commercial litigator, Melinda ("Mindy") Gentile now dedicates her practice to Alternative Dispute Resolution. Mindy is an exceptionally qualified ADR professional with a unique tenacity toward the process of resolving disputes that enables her to provide an extraordinary level of service. An exceptional communicator, Mindy effectively designs dispute resolution strategies to build consensus and assist parties in achieving success through voluntary resolution. Mindy is certified by the Florida Supreme Court as a Circuit Civil Mediator and Qualified Arbitrator, and as a Specialist in Construction Law by the Florida Bar.

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Dori Goikhman is the founder of Off the Record Mediation Services LLC, which is based in Silicon Valley. She is committed to helping parties work together to obtain a mutually acceptable solution to their disputes at a fair price. Her approach is to keep things simple, confidential, and efficient with the goal of preserving the parties' assets, reputations, and sanity. Dori is licensed to practice law in California, New York, and New Jersey.

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Nancy Greenwald draws on over 38 years' experience as a lawyer and business owner and executive to achieve practical, cost-effective solutions to complex construction and commercial disputes. A member of the AAA Commercial and Construction Industry Panels of Arbitrators and Mediators, Ms. Greenwald also serves as an arbitrator for private parties and state courts. She teaches conflict resolution to industry professionals and is a frequent author and speaker on dispute systems design, arbitration, mediation, negotiation, and construction technology. As Executive Director of the Construction Institute, Ms. Greenwald promotes cross-industry collaboration, including collaborative dispute avoidance and risk mitigation.

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There are many experienced litigators and jurists serving as neutrals. What sets Fran Griesing apart, in addition to over 40 years of experience as an advocate and over 25 years as a mediator and arbitrator, is she has also been a party in ADR. That perspective has been as valuable as representing clients in disputes and ADR proceedings. Having been in the party's shoes with significant issues at stake, she appreciates the stress and uncertainty a party feels seeking to resolve their dispute. She brings that sensitivity to each matter as a neutral whether proceeding in person or remotely.



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Laura has arbitrated and mediated more than 400 complex matters. She is a past leader of the NYSBA Dispute Resolution Section, the Garibaldi ADR Inn of Court, and the NJSBA Dispute Resolution Section. She received the Jeydel Award for ADR Excellence and NJSBA's Boskey Award. Laura is a co-editor of the CCA Guide to Best Practices in Commercial Arbitration (4th Ed 2017). Laura is on the Tech List of leading technology neutrals. She is on the panels of AAA, ICDR, CPR, FINRA, and a fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitration and of the College of Commercial Arbitrators.

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Tracy Moore-Grant has practiced exclusively in the area of family law in Georgia since 2002. She focuses her practice being a non-litigation attorney helping parties resolve issues outside of the court system as an uncontested and amicable divorce attorney, mediator, arbitrator and parent coordinator. She is the founding member of the law firm, Patterson Moore Butler, and of the Amicable Divorce Network, an international association of vetted professionals who are dedicated to helping people navigate the process of divorce in an efficient and low conflict manner. She is the recipient of both a Georgia Legal Award and Southeastern Legal Award for founding the Amicable Divorce Network.

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Alexis is an employment mediator and investigator with more than 20 years of employment law experience. She obtained her Certificate in Dispute Resolution from the Straus Institute at Pepperdine School of Law in 2019 and has maintained a full-time neutral practice since 2021. She attributes her success as a mediator to her commitment to customize the mediation process for each matter and her ability to build rapport quickly, listen fully, and guide parties to creative solutions. Alexis mediates on-line and in-person, primarily in Arizona and the Upper Midwest.

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Sara Sandford practiced for over 30 years in San Francisco, Tokyo, and Seattle, helping clients navigate the challenges of conducting cross border corporate and commercial transactions. Sara also served as a firm ombudsperson for many years of her practice. She is a qualified mediator with Benchmark International ADR, LLC, where she focuses on cross border commercial mediation. Sara splits her extra time between serving on the board of the King County Dispute Resolution Center (also providing pro bono services for its Eviction Resolution Program) and helping a nonprofit. She is fluent in Japanese. Sara has held many positions within the ABA over the years, including Chair of the ABA International Law Section.

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Kristen started in 1991 in a real property, probate, corporate and general litigation practice. She took time off to raise children, coach high school mock trial, get trained in mediation and help her father close the practice he operated for 57 years. She returned to practice in 2013, and provided pro bono mediations in the local district courts. She learned the K-12 education practice (representing students and families) from a valued colleague, with whom she formed Key Mediation LLC for the resolution of all civil law matters. She is on the panel of independent mediators and was recently named a hearing officer for the RI Department of Education, and is an adjunct professor of law at Roger Williams University School of Law.



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After more than twenty-five years as an environmental and natural resources attorney, Joan now serves as a mediator and arbitrator. Joan represented parties in litigation, in enforcement proceedings, in arbitrations and mediations, in environmental compliance work, and in real estate and corporate transactions. She also handled insurance coverage issues that arose in these contexts, sometimes working in cooperation with insurers and sometimes taking positions adverse to them. Joan previously studied biology, chemistry and environmental engineering and worked as an industrial chemist, which helps her grasp both the complexities and the practicalities of environmental and natural resources dispute resolution.

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Joan Stearns Johnsen, FCIArb has been mediating and arbitrating large and complex commercial matters for over twenty years. She is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute, accredited by CEDR, and IMI certified. Joan has particular expertise in financial and banking including M&A, employment, entertainment, and health matters. Joan is on the panels of the AAA, CPR, FINRA, AHLA, and NAM. She is a past Chair of the ABA's Dispute Resolution Section, Executive Vice Chair of the IBA's Mediation Committee, and a member of CPR's Council.

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Rebecca Stern is a divorce & family mediator, special education parent advocate, and founder of Pearl Mediation. She works with both amicable and high-conflict couples and is driven to change the divorce experience for families. A professional problem-solver, Rebecca navigates clients through issues of custody, parenting, child support, spousal maintenance, property division, and has created right-fit special education plans for countless families. Avoiding the expense, time, and drama associated with the traditional adversarial process of divorce, Rebecca helps clients build enduring agreements and move forward on solid ground, educated, and empowered. Divorce & Family Mediation; Divorce Consulting; Special Education Consulting & Advocacy; Parenting Coordination. Syracuse University; New York Law School; NYC Center for Mediation & Training; NJAPM; Mosten-Guthrie Academy; ABA; AFCC; COPAA; NADP

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Dr. Rebecca Storrow holds a Doctorate of Philosophy from the Department of Conflict Analysis and Resolution at Nova Southeastern University. She is the former Commercial Vice President for the American Arbitration Association, Miami Regional Office. Rebecca is currently a member of the AAA-ICDR Foundation Grants Committee and pursues her interest in global peacemaking through the development of documentary films that promote access to justice, community dialogue, illuminate racial injustice and support needed services to underserved populations. Rebecca further draws from her experience as a Florida Supreme Court certification in family, dependency, circuit, and county mediation. Areas of expertise include acting, writing, mediation, restorative justice, organizational conflict management, program evaluation, and indigenous forms of conflict resolution. Rebecca has served as an adjunct professor at three Florida universities and has published numerous articles and studies on regarding mediative practices and co-authored two chapters in the 2017 first edition of the Mediation Handbook, edited by Dr. Alexia Georgakopoulos.

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My almost thirty years as a complex commercial trial lawyer has prepared me well to serve as an ADR Professional. Since 2020, I have been working hard to complete intense training as both an arbitrator and a mediator to offer dispute resolution services. I have completed numerous ABA and AAA sponsored training programs that provide the skills and insights to serve as an impartial neutral poised to assist parties in resolving disputes outside the court system. I presently serve on the Commercial, Construction, and Consumer panels with the American Arbitration Association; the Construction Defect Resolution Services' arbitration and mediation panels; and as a private mediator. In appropriate circumstances, I will provide dispute resolution services for low cost or no fee.

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Conna Weiner was a litigator at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind Wharton & Garrison, inside counsel in the U.S. and abroad in international life sciences and healthcare companies and has now been a full-time mediator and arbitrator for 10 years. Her hundreds of cases have focused on complex business/technology disputes with special expertise in life sciences (pharmaceuticals, medical devices, vaccines, diagnostics, etc.), healthcare, information technology and other areas. She is a CCA and CIArb Fellow.

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Robyn Weinstein is the Director of the Cardozo Law School Mediation Clinic. She was the Alternative Dispute Resolution Administrator for the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York, where she was a mediator and directed the court's mediation, arbitration and mediation advocacy programs. Previously, she was the director for the Los Angeles office of Arts Arbitration & Mediation Services of California Lawyers for the Arts and adjunct clinical professor of mediation at the Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution at Pepperdine Caruso School of Law. She was board president of the Southern California Mediation Association in 2015 and served on the ABA Dispute Resolution Section Council from 2017-2020. Throughout her career, Ms. Weinstein has mediated a wide range of state and federal cases including employment discrimination and labor matters, civil rights matters filed under §1983, commercial matters, personal injury and insurance matters, and real estate and family disputes.

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Holly has a mediation practice which helps parties settle employment and employee benefits disputes, including workplace discrimination and harassment claims, contract disputes, compensation disputes and wage and hour claims. She understands the attorney-client relationship and drivers of all parties involved in ADR processes. She is a member of the mediation panels of the District Courts for the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York, the Supreme Court of the State of New York (Commercial Division), the National Rosters of Arbitrators and Mediators of the American Arbitration Association, FINRA's Roster of Arbitrators, New York City Bar Association Complaint Mediation Panel, and the CPR Panel of Distinguished Neutrals. She also spent nearly three decades practicing employment and employee benefits law at the highest level at two top tier law firms in New York City. She has helped her clients litigate, arbitrate and settle hundreds of high stakes, complex and emotion-laden disputes. To learn more about her, please visit her website: [www.HWHMediation.com](http://www.HWHMediation.com)

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Emily is a neutral with over a decade of experience in cases ranging from small consumer matters to national-scale business disputes. She practiced health care law as both payer and provider in-house counsel and served as chair of the health care disputes group of an AmLaw 100 firm over the course of a 25-year health law career. Because of that specialization, Emily started her neutral practice primarily with health care disputes, but now serves on multiple American Arbitration Association neutral panels and hears a wide variety of disputes, in addition to hearing cases for and serving as immediate past chair of the American Health Law's Dispute Resolution Service. She also speaks frequently on dispute resolution and health care issues, with a recent focus on the No Surprises Act and its industry-changing process for resolving health care payment disputes. As a native Coloradan, Emily hears cases nationwide.

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LaJuanda Williams-Griffin, Esq., M.P.H. is the founder and managing member of the Williams-Griffin Law Group, PLLC in Jackson and Tupelo, Mississippi. As a family, business, and employment mediator and negotiator, LaJuanda's proficiency has allowed her to successfully facilitate resolution in various family, employment, small business, and nonprofit disputes. She takes pride in employing a collaborative and solution-oriented approach, always seeking to find common ground and achieve mutually beneficial agreements among the parties. She serves as a 2023 WIDR Regional Chair, a board member of the Academy of Court-Appointed Neutrals, and a committee chair for the MS Bar Association's Dispute Resolution Section.

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I am a natural, creative problem solver with over 30 years of legal experience practicing labor and employment law as a litigator and an in-house attorney for large, publicly traded companies. I practice in my Charlotte-based firm, where I represent employers, executives, and professionals. Certified by the North Carolina Dispute Resolution Commission since 2006, I served as chair of the North Carolina Bar Association's Dispute Resolution Section for the 2014-2015 term and regularly mediate pre-litigation matters and cases pending in North Carolina state and federal courts. I am a member of the Cornell University ILR School, The Scheinman Institute on Conflict Resolution National Roster of Workplace Neutrals – NRC.

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Arnettia S. Wyre, Esq., MBA is the Founder & CEO of LAKE Solutions, LLC, a full-service conflict management firm. For over 20 years, Arnettia has combined her legal and business acumen with a commitment to creative problem-solving to navigate disputes for individuals and businesses alike. The firm offers a sanctuary for collaboration, employing the powerful tools of mediation, facilitation, negotiation, and arbitration. Committed to moving beyond the adversarial nature of litigation and forging resolutions where all parties feel acknowledged and respected, clients are able to discover common ground while preserving relationships and being fiscally responsible. Experience the difference.



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Mary C. Zinsner is a seasoned arbitrator and commercial litigator, with expertise in consumer finance, banking, UCC, secured lending, contract, and real property issues. She serves as a neutral on the American Arbitration Association's Consumer and Commercial panels. Active in community and bar events, Mary serves on the ABA's Women in Dispute Resolution's leadership board. Mary is a partner in the Consumer Financial Services practice group at Troutman Pepper Hamilton Sanders LLP in Washington, D.C.