THE FLORIDA BAR ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION SECTION THE FLORIDA BAR ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION SECTION

ROBERT A. COLE, CHAIR • CHRISTINA MAGEE, CHAIR-ELECT

15TH EDITION • FALL 2017

CHRISTINA MAGEE AND MICHELLE JERNIGAN, CO-EDITORS

"Life is like an onion: you peel it off one layer at a time, and sometimes you weep."

- Carl Sandburg

Chair's Message



Robert Cole

As the Chair of the ADR Section for The Florida Bar, I would like to introduce myself and welcome you to our Newsletter page. I work as a full-time neutral in Jacksonville, FL, having been born and raised in FL. I would like to express my gratitude to the Immediate Past Chair Meah Tell, who successfully handled a number of difficult issues for the Section over the course of last year. Among other things, we have revised our Section By-laws, which are expected to be approved by The Florida Bar Board of Governors in October 2017. Once those revised By-laws have been approved, they will be posted on our Section webpage for ease of reference.

Click here to read more

Editor's Note

This Fall Edition of News & Tips offers our Section Members information about a few of the many different types of dispute resolution that are taking place across Florida that are not within the scope of Florida Statutes Chapter 44 (Mediation Alternatives to Judicial Action), such as the public records mediation program under the auspices of the State Attorney General and a concept known as "Christian Conciliation" as a means of dispute resolution. In addition, this edition publishes a discussion with Rodney Romano on the need for diversity in the mediation profession and his thoughts about how this might be achieved.

Starting with this Fall Edition, Michelle Jernigan returns to co-edit News & Tips.

Please forward your ideas for articles or newsworthy tips that you believe would serve the interests of the Section Members for consideration in future editions. Many thanks.

Florida's Attorney General's Open Records Mediation Program

In the 1990's, according to Pat Gleason, Esq., Special Counsel for Open Government, before Florida's open records mediation program was codified into statute, the Attorney General's office provided mediation of open records disputes as a voluntary initiative. The codification of Florida Statutes Chapter 16.60, entitled Public Records Mediation Program with the Office of the Attorney General, formalized that voluntary initiative. The statute provides in part:

(3) The Office of the Attorney General shall:

- (a) Employ one or more mediators to mediate disputes involving access to public records. A person may not be employed by the department as a mediator unless that person is a member in good standing of The Florida Bar.
 - (b) Recommend to the Legislature needed legislation governing access to public records.
 - (c) Assist the Department of State in preparing training seminars regarding access to public records.
- (4) This section is intended to provide a method for resolving disputes relating to public records, and is intended to be supplemental to, not a substitution for, the other powers given to the Attorney General.

Click here to read more

For the upcoming year, I am excited to announce that we are doing a Section Retreat on November 3-4, 2017 at the Hutchinson Shores Retreat and Spa. You can preview the location at https://www.hutchinsonshores.com. Everyone in the Section is welcome to attend. Keep an eye out for Section email blasts with more details about the Retreat. The purpose of the Retreat is to engage in long range planning for the Section and establish short-term and long-term goals for the leadership to pursue. We will also be looking at what the Section can do to support Dispute Resolution in this state, whether through financial support or other

means. Florida has an active and comprehensive dispute resolution system with many different stakeholders. Our Section wants to make sure that concerns of our members are recognized and addressed as part of that process.

If you have ideas about what you would like the ADR Section to do, please consider attending the Retreat or contacting me of any other members of the Executive Council to voice your concerns.

Robert Cole Chair, ADR Section

The Florida Bar has launched an educational program entitled "Protect Florida Democracy" which strives to provide educational material for Florida Bar members and the general public concerning the Constitution Revision Commission. Florida citizens can suggest Florida constitutional amendments on line.

For more information, see The Florida Bar's webpage specifically addressed to the CRC: www.floridabar.org/crc.

News & Tips is a publication of The Alternative Dispute Resolution Section of The Florida Bar. Statements of opinions or comments appearing herein are those of the contributing authors, not The Florida Bar or the ADR Section.

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION SECTION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 2017 - 2018

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Note: Newsletter editors Christina Magee and Michelle Jernigan are soliciting articles for the Spring edition of the ADR News & Tips. All articles should be submitted to cmagee@brevardmediationservices.com by November 30, 2017.

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Florida Statute 16.60 also contains a definition of mediation, defining it as a "process whereby a neutral third person, called the mediator, acts to encourage and facilitate the resolution of a dispute between two or more parties. It is a formal, non-adversarial process that has the objective of helping the disputing parties reach a mutually acceptable, voluntary agreement. In mediation, decision-making authority rests with the parties. The role of the mediator includes, but is not limited to, assisting the parties in identifying issues, fostering joint problem solving, and exploring settlement alternatives."

While these aspects of the mediation program seem familiar and are close in substance to mediation as it is defined and promulgated in Chapter 44, the confidentiality provisions contained in Chapter 44 do not apply to the communications that take place in the AG's mediation program,

nor are the open records transformed into confidential communications by virtue of the mediation process. Ms. Gleason also advises that the program is only available to parties who have not filed any litigation process related to the records in question. She describes the program as easy to use, and that it is simply a matter of contacting her in the AG's office to request mediation if you are a citizen seeking a record or an agency wishing to withhold a record from public dissemination. The AG's mediation program cannot be used as a basis to determine whether an agency's failure to disclose a record on request is a violation of Florida's Open Records law. She also states that while there is no statutory requirement to adhere to the mediated result, those parties who mediate typically do so. Finally, she indicates that the program is cost-free to the participants.



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Christian Conciliation: An Ancient Form of ADR

By Lennie Burke; Certified by the Supreme Court of Florida for County and Family Mediation and Candidate for Certified Christian Conciliator™

Christian Conciliation is a form of Alternative Dispute Resolution with its own rules, foundational concepts, and practitioners. This article compares Christian Conciliation with the practice of mediators certified by the Supreme Court of Florida. The goal of this article is to provide conflict resolution professionals with information about another alternative for dispute resolution in Florida.

Definition and Scope

Christian Conciliation is a process for reconciling people and resolving disputes out of court in a biblical manner. It relies on the Parties' understanding of the wisdom, values and practices of the Old and New Testaments of the Bible. Christian Conciliation includes teaching, coaching, mediation and arbitration. As the definition implies, the first priority is reconciliation of the parties, hence it is essentially a transformative approach.

Clearly, one expects Christian Conciliation to be applied in a church setting - between members of the church or between the leadership and some members of the congregation. Christian Conciliation is also relevant though, for family conflict, contract disputes, restitution for damages, and divorce; essentially any area of dispute where the parties are professing Christians.

In the first epistle of Saint Paul to the Corinthians, he criticized their approach to resolving conflict. He said "If any of you has a dispute with another, do you dare to take it before the ungodly for judgment instead of before the Lord's people?... do you ask for a ruling from those whose way of life is scorned in the church? I say this to shame you. Is it possible that there is nobody among you wise enough to judge a dispute between believers? But instead, one brother takes another to court—and this in front of unbelievers!" (Author's paraphrase).¹ Essentially Paul established a preference for a form of ADR, and more particularly, an alternative to the Roman court system. Whether Christian Conciliation is the oldest form of ADR in western civilization is beyond the scope of this writing, but it is clearly an ancient form.

Common themes in the coaching and mediation are likely to be:

- Increasing charity, mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, and compassion,
- Decreasing anger, rage, malice, slander, gossip and offensive language,
- o Understanding the other parties' interests and needs,
- o Learning how to carry the other party's burdens and encouraging one another,
- o Focusing on personal responsibility (Get the log out of your own eye²),

o Realizing confession and forgiveness (forgive as we have been forgiven³).

One organization that trains and certifies Christian Conciliators is the Institute for Christian Conciliation.⁴

Similarities

The primary practice in Christian Conciliation is mediation and the associated coaching in caucus. Like mediations done under Chapter 44, self-determination and confidentiality are essential elements. The rules for Christian Conciliation⁵ look a lot like the Florida Rules for Certified and Court-Appointed Mediators. The process: utilizes opening statement and caucus, just as in mediations that take place under Chapter 44. The mediator (conciliator) is responsible to look out for the interests of persons not participating and to assure the memorialization of any agreements. There is an option for a structured conversion to arbitration should that be desired. For those certified in mediation by the Florida Supreme Court this will all seem very familiar.

Differences

Of course, the obvious difference between Christian Conciliation and secular mediation is the explicit dependence on Biblical teaching. Although secular mediation can and often does involve what might be described as "heart" or emotional dynamics, in Christian Conciliation, emotional issues and their resolution is paramount. Secular mediation may not address the origin of the conflict; in Christian Conciliation understanding and dealing with the origins of the conflict is the focus.

Christian Conciliation places more emphasis on coaching in caucus and on homework, prayer and reflection. The coaching is consistent with the provision of Rule 10.370 which allows the mediator to provide information that the mediator is qualified by training or experience to provide. However, the Christian Conciliator will not direct interpretation of the scripture. He or she will suggest to the parties passages which may be relevant. It is up to the participant to read his or her own Bible and determine if the referenced scripture is relevant and how to respond to it.

As the objective is reconciliation, the Conciliator is mindful of the powerful effect of confession and forgiveness. Parties are encouraged to seek reconciliation not only with one another, but with God.

Christian Conciliation does rely on an exception to confidentiality. In accordance with Matthew 18:17⁶ parties are asked to permit the involvement of their church(s) should that become necessary. As long as the parties have been

able to exercise self-determination, the parties may waive confidentiality.⁷

Christian Conciliation may be executed using a team approach of two Conciliators. This partnership allows better exploration of heart issues and reference to relevant scripture.

A resulting settlement agreement will likely cite the applicable scriptures. If the agreement is to be filed with the court, the parties and their counsel, if represented, will determine how much of the motivation and scriptural basis to include. It may include a description of the personal issues and steps for reconciliation. It would restate the confidentiality limits and any exceptions the parties have agreed to. It may also address accountability for the steps a party has agreed to take.

Example

An employee of a church is fired from his job and he believes the firing was unfair and illegal. He can sue alleging wrongful termination, discrimination, failure of his employer to pay wages due, or seek other legal relief. That case will likely be resolved through some negotiation and settlement in a typical Circuit Civil or federal court mediation.

Alternatively, the employee and the church may agree to Christian Conciliation. The underlying reasons for the dispute will be addressed. Both sides will search for their own contribution to the dispute. The conciliator along with the parties will search for guidance regarding the responsibilities of the employer and the employee. For example, the parable of the workers in the vineyard⁸ may be applicable. The end result should be a settlement that brings forgiveness, justice and peace.

If a suit has been filed in civil court, the parties may choose to file the settlement agreement achieved in the Christian Conciliation with the court.9

Value of Christian Conciliation

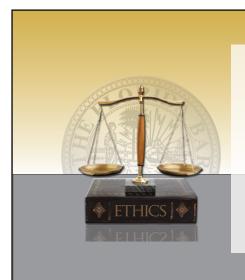
Like any transformative approach, a goal is to achieve complete and lasting resolution of the conflict. It also provides a way to deal with a conflict and remain faithful to Christian teaching. Disputes between Christians that are not resolved in accordance with the Bible damage the witness that all Christians are called to offer.

Conclusion

The ancient form of ADR known as Christian Conciliation is the recommended alternative for Christians. In many ways, the practice is consistent with the requirements for ethical practice by Florida Supreme Court certified mediators, but the focus of Christian Conciliation is always on achieving the larger goal of bringing the parties away from conflict and towards a just result consistent with Scriptural teachings. The use of that framework to inform the process is the greatest difference between the two kinds of mediation.

Endnotes

- 1 Paraphrased from 1 Corinthians 6:1-6 of the New International Version
- 2 Matthew 7:3-5
- 3 Matthew 6:12
- 4 Institute for Christian Conciliation, 306-N West El Norte Pkwy #29, Escondido, CA 92026, Phone 844-707-3223 www.iccpeace.com
- 5 Rules of Procedure for Christian Conciliation are included in the Guidelines for Christian Conciliation at http://peacemaker.net/project/guidelines-for-christian-conciliation/
- 6 Matthew 18:17 "If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church..."
- 7 F.S. 44.405(4)(a)(1)
- 8 Matthew 20:1-15
- 9 For a discussion of validity and enforceability, see http://peacemaker.net/enforceability/



Ethics Questions?

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The Future Of Divorce Is Now: Collaborative

By Nadia Pazos



N. PAZOS

Divorce involves humans with all of our complexities and emotions. The divorce legal process, on the other hand, seems anything but human at times. This deficiency created the need for a better legal process to help families facing divorce. Collaborative divorce is a human-centered process that, much like most positive advancements in society,

in hindsight, just seems like common sense.

Why was collaborative divorce created if there is already a procedure for getting divorced in Court? Necessity is the mother of invention and the same can be said about divorce litigation (divorce that is fought in Court). Divorce litigation can quickly become cold, complicated, destructive and bring out the worst of those involved. Collaborative divorce was created in 1990 by Attorney Stuart Webb in Minneapolis when he decided to do something about the road blocks and frustration involved in divorce litigation, not to mention the emotional and financial destruction faced by families stuck in litigation.

[Webb] said that he would no longer go to court for the clients of his who were to be divorced. He said that he would help them settle and negotiate their problems outside the courtroom only – where the couple could get together and work out their problems – and that if they decided to go to court over the matter, he would withdraw his aid and hand over the case to a lawyer who had a more litigious temperament. For those of us who do not use "litigious" in every day speech – I mean, for those of us who are not lawyers, this word means arguable or debatable. Hostile might also be used... ¹

In litigation, couples pay attorneys to fight against each other, which can quickly become ugly. In the collaborative process, both spouses and their attorneys work together as a team with trained professionals to resolve disputes privately, respectfully, and, hopefully, without spending the extensive amounts of time and money that litigation entails.

Florida Legislature catching up. The Florida Legislature adopted the Collaborative Law Process Act ("Collaborative Act") in 2016, which created a legal framework for families to resolve disputes outside of court. Other states have previously adopted such methods much earlier. California, for example, passed a collaborative law statute in 2013. The Florida Act specifies that family law issues under Chapters 61 or 742 of the Florida Statutes can be resolved via the collaborative process, including the following:

- Divorce
- Alimony
- Child support

- Marital property and debt distribution
- Child custody and visitation (parental responsibility and timesharing)
- Parental relocation
- · Prenuptial and postnuptial agreements
- Paternity

Do attorneys have ethical rules specific to the collaborative process? New Bar Rule 4-1.19 (Collaborative Law Process in Family Law) describes the professional conduct required of an attorney in the collaborative law process. A client must be fully informed of the risks and benefits of the collaborative law process in resolving family law matters. Clients must be informed that the attorneys are obligated to stop representing them if either spouse decides to abandon the collaborative process and litigate. Though some see this as a hardship because, if a client decides to litigate, she needs to find a new attorney. The upside; however, is priceless. It incentivizes both the parties and the attorneys to stay civil and try to settle. It acts as a check on attorneys themselves from becoming too adversarial or "hostile". Clients may also stop the collaborative process for any reason.

Another benefit to the collaborative process is that fees and costs a client can reasonably expect to incur during the process should all be fully explained to the client before the process begins (e.g., fees for attorneys, mental health professionals, financial professionals). The exact timeline of settlement depends on the complexity of each case as well as the preference of each spouse, so it's difficult to estimate. The length and cost of litigation is even more difficult to estimate because it not only depends on the parties but the aggressive or litigious nature of each attorney. It only takes one overly-aggressive attorney to drag out a divorce process.

What about domestic violence? Section (c) of Rule 4-1.9 addresses an attorney's duty to address domestic violence specifically. According to the statute, "A lawyer must reasonably inquire whether a prospective client has a history of any coercive or violent relationship with another party in a family law matter before agreeing to represent a client in the collaborative law process and must make reasonable efforts to continue to assess whether a coercive or violent relationship exists between parties in a family law matter throughout the collaborative law process." If an attorney believes the safety of the client is compromised, he or she cannot represent the client in the collaborative law process.

Florida Supreme Court catching up. The Florida Supreme Court adopted the collaborative rules on May 18, 2017, and they will go into effect on July 1, 2017. As Robert Merlin, Esq., a staunch supporter of the collaborative rules

has said, "I am pleased, rather overjoyed, to [announce that] the Florida Supreme Court adopted the Collaborative Rules. This is the culmination of many years of hard work by a handful of people. I hope and anticipate that this is going to make a big difference in the Collaborative Process in Florida."

What place does mediation have in the collaborative process? Usually the parties agree in advance as part of the collaborative process to pursue mediation or another

dispute resolution process in the event the collaborative divorce process does not yield a resolution. As part of that collaborative agreement, the parties also agree that their current counsel may represent them for the purposes of dispute resolution before litigation begins.

Endnote

1 http://www.collaborativedivorce.net/history-of-collaborative-divorce/

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NEWS & NOTES

At the Annual Meeting in Boca Raton in June 2017, the ADR Section moved to amend its By-Laws. These have been submitted for approval by the Board of Governors of the Florida Bar. As this Fall Edition goes to press, the Section has been informed that the Board of Governors intend to approve the By-Laws in October. After BOG approval, the By-Laws will be posted on the Section's website: fladr.org. A special thank you to Tom Bateman and the other members of his Committee who worked so diligently on the revisions.

The Annual Meeting also saw the adoption of a protocol for the submission of an ADR Section-endorsed article for the Florida Bar *Journal*. Contact the ADR Liaison G. Tollok for the details of that protocol, or for more information if you have an article you would like to submit to the Bar Journal as Section-endorsed.

ADR Section Liaisons 2017-2018

ADR Liasion Committee						
Lori Adelson	Employment	ladelson@workplacelaw.com				
Ricardo Cata	International Law	rcata@uww-adr.com				
Aaron Horowitz	Business Law	ahorowitz@gunster.com				
Bob Hoyle	Real Property Probate & Trust	bhoyle@hoylefirm.com				
Lawrence Kolin	Entertainment/Arts & Sports	Lkolin@uww-adr.com				
Michael Lax	ADR Rules and Policy Committee	mhlax@laxpa.com				
Sandy Myers	Family	sandymyersmediation@gmail.com				
Steven Perry	Technology	slperry@outlook.com				
Meah Tell	YLD	meahtell@gmail.com				
Kim Torres	Diversity	kim@flmpro.com				





Looking for CLE/CME Credits?

The ADR Section has a growing collection of recent CLE/CME presentations. The recordings in our CLE/CME library include:

- The Oracle Speaks: Appellate Mediation Unveiled (4.0 hours, 1.0 Ethics) presented by Judges from the 5th DCA and Seventh Judicial Circuit in conjunction with current Appellate experts and Appellate Mediators
- Confidentiality and Privilege in Mediation: Getting Back to Basics, Arbitration A to Z (2.5 hours)
- Mediation & Arbitration CLE: Tips for Improving your Practice and Performance (3.0 hours) presented by James Haggard, Staff Attorney, Brevard Legal Aid

To order the webinars, go to http://tfb.inreachce.com and then click on "Alternate Dispute Resolution." (If the link doesn't open automatically, copy the address and place in the search bar of your browser.)

Remember – CLE credits are pre-approved while CME credits are self-reporting.

The Diversity Challenge for Mediators: An Interview with Rodney Romano, Esq.

Many of our Section Members may have read Rodney Romano's recent article in DRC's *The Neutral* addressing the need for, and potential lack of, diverse mediators among Florida's Supreme Court Certified mediator ranks. That article, "Evolution of the Mediation Profession – Cultural Diversity" can be accessed with this link: http://www.flcourts.org/resources-and-services/alternative-dispute-resolution/the-neutral.stml.

Chris Magee, Editor of the ADR Section's Newsletter *News and Tips*, visited with Rodney Romano to talk about his desire to enhance cultural diversity among mediators in Florida and his plans to generate discussion on this important topic.

Rodney explained that the issue of cultural diversity among mediators is essential. There are multitudes of Florida citizens who identify with and among a variety of cultural groups, ethnicities and gender spectrums that are not white and heterosexual. Romano's premise is that diverse life experiences enhance a mediator's skill set and that cultural diversity is a part of that proposition. However, greater than 67% of mediators on the list of certified mediators maintained by the Dispute Resolution Center identify themselves as Caucasian. Romano hypothesizes that if the pool of mediators being measured is mediators who devote their full-time professional endeavors to mediation and dispute resolution, the percentage of white mediators goes up even further. Much of this outcome is the result of how full-time mediators have come up in the mediation profession. The most-employed mediators tend to be those who have experience as lawyers, since in many instances, the hiring decision selecting a mediator is being made by a lawyer. Law schools, law firms and court systems face the same diversity challenges of how to make the legal profession a place where non-white, non-male professionals can succeed.

Plans are underway to engage in surveys that will allow more precise measurement of Florida's certified mediators in hopes of learning statistical data such as prior professional training and experience (i.e. lawyer, social worker, psychologist, etc.), demographics, and level of income derived from dispute resolution activity. Based on those findings, Romano aspires to put together a study group to develop proposed solutions that will allow Florida's mediator pool to better reflect the diversity of Florida's population.

If you want to participate in the study group or have ideas about how the survey should proceed, please contact Rodney Romano at Rodney@matrixmediation.com.



WHEN:

Saturday, November 4, 2017

WHERE:

Hutchinson Shores and Spa 3793 NE Ocean Blvd.



Jenson Beach, FL 34957 (877) 502-4653

www.hutchinsonshores.com

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

All members of the ADR Section, the Executive Council and their invited Guests are invited to participate in this networking and planning event. Families are invited to enjoy this luxurious beach-front resort recently opened on Florida's Treasure Coast.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2017

4:30 p.m. - Hotel Check-in

6:00 p.m. - Welcome and Networking Reception (everyone is invited)

7:00 p.m. - Dinner on your Own

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2017

 $8\!:\!30$ a.m. – ADR Section Executive Council Meeting (Officers and EC Members only, breakfast provided)

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. – Open Executive Council Meeting (all ADR Section Members and Guests are welcome)

12:00 p.m. - Lunch Provided for Meeting Attendees

1:15 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. - Executive Council Meeting

 $7:00~\mathrm{p.m.}$ – Optional Dinner with Section Members and Guests, or on your own

The Hutchinson Shores Resort and Spa is a new premiere resort on the Atlantic Ocean in Jensen Beach, which boasts coastal-inspired décor and luxury amenities. We have secured a fabulous room rate of \$149, and kindly invite you to join the Executive Council for their Fall Meeting. The special room rates can be extended upon request. For more information, please email Gabrielle Tollok at gtollok@floridabar.org. Overnight valet parking will be \$15.

To reserve your room, contact: www.HutchinsonShores.com and use the special group code FLBARA1103, or you may call 877.502.4653 and reference the ADR Section Executive Council Meeting. The room reservation deadline is October 13, 2017.

To save a place for the meeting, please RSVP to Gabrielle Tollok by Monday, October 16, 2017.

- ___ I plan to attend the Welcome Reception
- ____ I will be staying for lunch on Saturday
- ___ No, I will not be staying for lunch







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Membership Application for

The Florida Bar Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Section

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Office Phone:			Offic	ce Fax:	
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Complete this	form and return wit	h your checl	k payable to "THE FLOF	RIDA BAR" in the a	amount of \$35.
Send form ar	nd check to:				
	The Florida Bar ATTN: Gabby Tollok 651 East Jefferson Street Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2300				
Or pay \$35 by	y credit card by faxi	ng the com	pleted form to Fax # (85	50) 561-9404.	
Type of Card:	■ MasterCard	□ Visa	☐ American Express	□ Discover	
Credit Card #	:			Exp Date: _	
Name on Cre	dit Card:				
Signature of (Card Holder:				



(Please Note: The Florida Bar dues structure does not provide for prorated dues. Your Section dues cover the period of July 1 to June 30.)

The Florida Bar
Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Section

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Section

Organized 2010

The Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Section was designed to provide a forum for lawyers interested in alternative dispute resolution and to share common interests, ideas and concepts. The Section will provide continuing legal education as well as be a central source for either advocacy or communications and deal with all forms of alternative dispute resolution.

Membership Eligibility:

Any member in good standing of The Florida Bar interested in the purpose of the Section is eligible for membership upon application and payment of this Section's annual dues. Any member who ceases to be a member of The Florida Bar in good standing shall no longer be a member of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Section.

Affiliate Members. The executive council may enroll, upon request and upon payment of the prescribed dues as affiliate members of the section, persons who are inactive members of The Florida Bar and who can show a dual capacity of interest in and contribution to the section's activities. The purpose of affiliate membership is to foster the development and communication of information between arbitrators, mediators, and the people who often work with arbitration and/or mediation lawyers. Affiliate members must not encourage the unlicensed practice of law. The number of affiliates will not exceed one-half of the section membership. "Affiliate" or "affiliate member" means an inactive member of The Florida Bar. Affiliate members have all the privileges accorded to members of the section except that affiliates may not vote, hold office, or participate in the selection of officers or members of the executive council, or advertise affiliate membership in any way. Affiliates may serve in an advisory nonvoting capacity which the executive council may from time to time establish in its discretion. Affiliate members will pay dues in an amount equal to that required of section members.

The purposes of the Section are:

- a. To provide an organization within The Florida Bar open to all members in good standing in The Florida Bar who have a common interest in Alternative Dispute Resolution.
- b. To provide a forum for discussion and exchange of ideas leading to an improvement of individual ADR skills and abilities, both as a participant and as a neutral.
- c. To assist the Courts in establishing methods of expeditious administration of mediations by making formal recommendations to the Supreme Court Committee on Alternative Dispute Resolution Rules and Policy.
- d. To assist members of The Florida Bar who generally desire to increase their effectiveness as ADR participants.
- e. To keep the membership informed and updated regarding legislation, rules, and policies in connection with mediation and other ADR processes and the responsibilities they impose on mediator and arbitrator members (as well as other ADR professionals who may ultimately be included).
- f. To provide a forum for the educational discussion of ethical considerations for ADR participants.

Membership Information:

Section Dues \$35

The membership application is also available on the Bar website at www.floridabar.org under "Inside the Bar," Sections & Divisions.

8221001 Item Number

Rev. 02/13