

**Mala Malhotra-Ortiz, Esq.** is the Director of the ADR Division of the Maryland Court of Special Appeals and is an emergency ADR Advisor for the Federal Emergency Management Agency in times of national disaster. She came to the Court from private practice and the clinical law faculty of the University of Baltimore, School of Law. She was an executive appointment in the U.S. Department of Interior, Department of Justice, and the Department of Transportation as a Presidential Management Fellow. During her tenure with the federal government, Ms. Malhotra-Ortiz negotiated international air-rights agreements, facilitated multiple-party discussion around public land-use planning, negotiated divestitures involving corporations under anti-trust investigations, and litigated in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals on behalf of the Department of Justice. She was owner and managing attorney of a solo practice specializing in immigration litigation and family law, particularly focused on providing services to the LGBT community. She is a Council member of the Maryland State Bar Association's Alternative Dispute Resolution Section, a roster mediator for the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution, Board Member of the Conflict Resolution Center of Baltimore County, and is recognized by the Maryland Program for Mediator Excellence. She was a board member for GayLaw (2009-2010) and has been an active member of the Maryland state LGBT bar association judicial nomination committee. She has mediated over 800 disputes including business, domestic relations, estates, multiple-party environmental disputes, products liability, real property, worker's compensation and zoning. She has served as counsel in over 200 matters in both state and federal forums.

Ms. Malhotra-Ortiz earned her J.D. from the University of Maryland, School of Law; cum laude graduate of the University of Maryland, College Park; and studied at the American School of International Business in Vevey, Switzerland and at the University of North London, U.K.. She served in the U.S. Peace Corps (1996-1999) and Ms. Malhotra-Ortiz is fluent in Guarani, Hindi, Punjabi, and Spanish.