

Networking and Membership Organizations for ADR Practitioners

A wide range of organizations support ADR practitioners by providing opportunities for professional development, networking, mentorship, and collaboration. These groups can help you strengthen your practice, connect with colleagues committed to excellence in dispute resolution, and stay informed about developments in the field.

Maryland Organizations



The Maryland Council for Dispute Resolution, or MCDR, is a statewide organization dedicated to supporting practitioners through networking, mentoring, continuing education, advocacy, and performance-based mediator certification. MCDR is particularly valuable for Maryland mediators seeking professional community, practical skill development, and recognition through peer-reviewed certification programs. MCDR hosts regular meetings and offers a membership option.

<https://www.mcdr.org/>



The Alternative Dispute Resolution Section of the Maryland State Bar can be a useful resource for both attorney and non-attorney mediators. In addition to their advocacy for the use of ADR, they actively monitor state and national legislation and proposals that may impact the field. The section provides basic mediation training, continuing education programs, and an online platform to connect with fellow practitioners. The ADR Section offers membership options.

<https://www.msba.org/site/site/content/Sections/Section-Landing/Alternative-Dispute-Resolution-Section.aspx>



The Maryland Program for Mediator Excellence, or MPME, is a program hosted by the Mediation and Conflict Resolution Office of the Maryland Judiciary. The MPME provides monthly mediator continuing education programs at no-cost. Most MPME programs are open to MPME members and non-members. In order to maintain active membership status with the MPME, mediators submit an application documenting their completion of a qualifying basic mediation training, affirm their commitment to completing at least 10-hours of continuing education annually, at least 2-hours of which must be in mediator ethics, state their agreement to abide by the Maryland Standards of Conduct for Mediators, and provide their consent to participate in the mediator ombuds program. In addition to educational opportunities, the MPME maintains a directory for active members that is accessible to the public and at least one in-person networking event annually.

<https://www.courts.state.md.us/mpme/join>



Community Mediation Maryland, or CMM, is focused on providing support for Maryland’s community-based volunteer mediators and the organizations they serve. Maryland is well known for its community mediation programs and the network is substantial. CMM provides basic and advanced mediation trainings, mentorship programs, performance-based certification, and advocacy for mediation in a variety of settings. In order to be involved with CMM, practitioners must volunteer their services to a member community mediation center in their area.

www.mdmediation.org



The Center for Alternative Dispute Resolution, or the Center for ADR, is based in Greenbelt, Maryland. The Center’s mission is to promote education and approaches to dispute resolution that serve the needs of a diverse society. The Center emphasizes the practical application of ADR principles through education, training, and professional development programs. The Center provides a broad range of learning opportunities for dispute resolution professionals.

<https://www.natlctr4adr.org/>

National Organizations



The Association for Conflict Resolution, or ACR, is a national membership organization dedicated to supporting and advancing the field of ADR through professional development, collaboration, and education. The organization offers unique sections that connect members who share common practice areas and professional interests. These sections provide opportunities for information sharing, leadership, and engagement through newsletters, meetings, and other programming. The organization also sponsors committees, task forces, and initiatives that address emerging issues and developments within the ADR field and hosts an annual conference.

<https://acrnet.org/>



The American Bar Association, or ABA, Dispute Resolution Section is a membership organization self-described as “the leading source of dispute resolution information and networking opportunities for professionals...” They have membership options for both attorney and non-attorney mediators. Membership benefits include complimentary access to publications, discounts on content, networking and committee opportunities, and overall professional enhancement.

https://www.americanbar.org/groups/dispute_resolution/



The National Bar Association Alternative Dispute Resolution Section is comprised of diverse types of practitioners from a multitude of professional backgrounds. The Section aims to create an enduring organization of highly qualified practitioners who are able to provide alternative dispute resolution services to members of the Association and the public. Additionally, the Section seeks to promote policies and engage in activities that support alternative dispute resolution professionals; and to raise awareness among the public about the importance and value of alternative dispute resolution.

<https://www.nba-adr.org/>



The National Association for Community Mediation, or NAFCM, is an organization dedicated to the advancement of community mediation. “NAFCM supports peacemakers by being the hub for advancing the work of community mediation, aggregating the wisdom of community mediation and amplifying the voice of community mediators. NAFCM's purpose, as a membership association of peacemakers who employ the practices and values of community mediation, is to help these peacemakers to create brave spaces for the transformation of conflict to opportunities for engagement, resolution and partnership through the work and will of the participants and those impacted.”

<https://www.nafcm.org/>

International Organizations



The International Mediation Institute, or IMI, is a non-profit dedicated to establishing and maintaining high mediation standards across the globe. The IMI has many diverse initiatives, including opportunities to volunteer and for practitioners to become IMI Certified. The IMI engages extensively in ADR-related research, ensuring excellence in practice for all mediators, maintaining a clear code of conduct for mediators, and providing robust resources for practitioners to develop their skills and knowledge.

<https://imimediation.org/>



Mediators Beyond Borders International aims to build a global community of peacebuilders to advance peace and conflict resolution around the world. They offer several membership tiers; benefits include participation in regional work groups, access to various toolkits and written materials, discounts on webinars and other educational opportunities, and first-hand experience working with some of the world's most complex conflicts.

<https://mediatorsbeyondborders.org/>



The International Institute for Conflict Prevention and Resolution, or CPR, is an independent non-profit, membership driven organization that focuses on the prevention and resolution of conflict. Membership benefits include professional networking opportunities, continuing education content, exclusive programs, and access to a library of resource materials. <https://www.cpradr.org/>