



Georgia Commission on Dispute Resolution Meeting

Tuesday, September 29, 2026
12:00 – 12:30 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83263547481?pwd=kLf47P1c22O75S62B2MmJbcTT0Hn0D.1>

Meeting ID: 832 6354 7481

Passcode: 157247

AGENDA

- I. Welcome: Judge Carrie Markham
- II. Roll call
- III. New Business:
 - a. Action Item: Rockdale Judicial Circuit ADR Program Application
- IV. Next Meeting date: December 9 (*in-person*)
- V. Adjournment



Georgia Commission on Dispute Resolution

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 29, 2026

Chair Judge Carrie B. Markham called the meeting to order. In addition to Judge Markham, Commission members and Office staff present were:

Crystal Cooper; Presiding Judge Sara L. Doyle; Hal Gray III, Esq.; Donald Horace, Esq.; Judge Quinn Kasper; Chief Judge M. Cindy Morris; Patrick T. O'Connor; Sr. Judge Jack Partin; Peggy Roth; Judge Jason B. Thompson; and Randall Weiland.

Tracy B. Johnson, Executive Director; and Karlie A. Sahs, Deputy Director.

The following guests observed by video: Chief Judge Nancy Bills, Rockdale Judicial Circuit; Jan East, Dublin Judicial Circuit ADR Program; Melissa Heard, Justice Center of Atlanta; Kizmat Lester, Dekalb County ADR Program; Rebecca Lew, Cobb County Superior Court ADR Program; Sabina Medina, Conasauga Judicial Circuit ADR Program; Darlene Mitchell, Rockdale Judicial Circuit; Alicia Page, The Mediation Center of the Coastal Empire; Raye Rawls, Esq.; Olivia Rudder Wilson, Dekalb County Juvenile Court ADR Program; and Bridget Williams, Registered Neutral.

I. Welcome

Judge Carrie B. Markham called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Judge Markham asked Ms. Karlie Sahs to conduct the roll call of GCDR members.

III. New Business

a. Action Item: Rockdale Judicial Circuit ADR Program Application

Context: This specially set meeting was held for the sole purpose of considering the ADR Program Application submitted by the Rockdale Judicial Circuit. The application was submitted after the deadline for consideration at the August meeting, and the Commission voted to hold a special meeting to avoid delaying implementation of the program.

Judge Markham presented the action item and recognized Chief Judge Nancy Bills, Superior Court of Rockdale County, and Ms. Darlene Mitchell, Rockdale County Court Administrator, for their leadership and work in preparing the application.

Ms. Johnson provided a summary of the program application and noted that the Supreme Court ADR Rules require new program applications to include a letter of support, a budget,

and proposed program rules. All required documents were included in the application and provided to Commission members for review.

Ms. Johnson noted one change from the application originally submitted; the Probate Court has decided not to participate in the ADR Program at this time but may elect to join at a later date. She further noted that Commission approval is required before the program may begin collecting filing fees and moving forward with implementation, including the hiring of a program director.

Ms. Johnson reported that the proposed program rules were consistent with Appendix A, Uniform Rules for ADR Programs, and recommended approval of the application.

Chief Judge Morris moved to approve the Rockdale Judicial Circuit ADR Program Application. Ms. Cooper seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with no abstentions. Judge Markham held the voting proxy for Judge Pandora Palmer.

IV. Next Meeting Date:

- a. 2026:** December 9 (*in-person*)

V. Adjournment

The meeting concluded at approximately 12:08 p.m.

[Minutes prepared by Karlie A. Sahs and Tracy B. Johnson]

[Minutes approved via email on 10.9.26]