



Georgia Commission on Dispute Resolution

Provide for the speedy, efficient, and inexpensive resolution of disputes and prosecutions

[Find a Local Court ADR Program](#)

[Find Approved Training](#)

[Find a Registered Neutral](#)

[Continuing Education](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Be Neutral - February 2016

A publication of the Georgia Office of Dispute Resolution

Welcome to the February 2016 Issue of *Be Neutral*

Mark Your Calendar!



Are you aware that the meetings of the Georgia Commission on Dispute Resolution are open to the public? Take the time to attend the next one to get a sense of all the hard work Commission members do for our profession in Georgia.

Date: Wednesday, February 24

Time: 2 4 p.m.

Location: Conference Room 1, State Bar of Georgia Conference Center, 104 Marietta St. NW, Atlanta

Save Your Privacy Settings for New Public Directory

The Georgia Courts Registrar launched a searchable public directory for all court professionals in the Registrar.

Out of respect for the privacy and security of our registered neutrals personal information, as a default setting only name, website, registration status, registration categories, and registration ID number will be available to make visible. Registered neutrals should log into their Registrar accounts and save their privacy settings even if you make no changes to ensure that all of those fields appear in the directory. Then they should choose what other personal information they wish to be displayed in the directory. Heres how to do that:



1. On the Georgia Courts Registrar home page (<https://gcr.onegovcloud.com/>), login using your username or email address and password.
2. Locate your name in the top right hand corner of the screen.
3. Click your name to reveal the user menu.
4. Select Privacy Settings from the menu.
5. Place a check next to each item you would like to make public by clicking the box next to the item.
6. Click the Save button to save your selections.
7. Return to the user menu by clicking the Back to Profile Page button or by clicking People then MyProfile on the top blue menu.
8. To logout, click your name in the top right hand corner of the screen and select Logout.

For assistance, please email gcr.neutrals@georgiacourts.gov or call 404-463-3808.

2015 Registration Renewal Reminder: Late Fees Now Apply



For neutrals due to renew their registrations during the 2015 season, the on-time renewal deadline ended on **December 31, 2015**. A late fee equal to the regular renewal fee now applies. Those neutrals who have not renewed by April 30, 2016...

A T E R E N E W A L

2016, will become inactive on **May 1** and will be ineligible to handle court-connected cases until they pay their fees and complete 8 hours of continuing education. (Neutrals may remain in inactive status for up to two years after their last on-time renewal deadline. After two years of inactive status, their registrations will be archived, and they will have to fulfill all requirements again in order to be registered.)

To renew, you must use the new **Georgia Courts Registrar** to create an account (if you have not already created one), answer a questionnaire, enter your continuing education information (a form is no longer required), and pay your renewal fee.

To renew, please follow these steps:

1. Read the [Step-by-Step User Guide](#) and follow the instructions in the Neutral Registration section.
2. Open the [Georgia Courts Registrar](#) using Google Chrome or Internet Explorer 11. Google Chrome is recommended for the best user experience.
3. **If you already have a Registrar account, proceed to step 6.** If you do not have a Registrar account yet, Under New Account, choose **Neutral** from the menu. Click Create Account.

Complete every field with an asterisk. Make sure to choose the categories in which you are currently registered.
4. Also, make sure to type the birthdate using the following format for month/day/year, xx/xx/xxxx; if the year does not have four digits, you will receive an error message. Then, click **Register**.
5. You will receive an email from the Registrar. Click on the hyperlink in your email to verify your account or copy and paste the entire link into your address bar. If you do not see the email immediately, check your spam folder.
6. Login to the Registrar with the username and password you created.
To submit continuing education hours for approval, click on **Events** at the top of the page. On the following page, click **Events Management** at the top of the page, and select **Submit External CE Hours for Approval**.
7. In the Type box, select **Neutrals**. Complete every field with an asterisk and click Submit. To add another CE event, repeat the steps starting with the **Events Management** menu.
8. Scroll to the bottom of the page and click on **Questionnaire 1**. Answer every question and click Submit. Upload any documents as requested.
9. Click the green **Payment** button (located next to the Reset Password button at the bottom of the page). Select payment and add it to your shopping cart. Click on the cart and complete payment.

You may log in as many times as you wish to complete your application. However, our office will not review or accept your application until you have completed all steps and have paid your fees.

For assistance, please email gcr.neutrals@georgiacourts.gov or call 404-463-3808.

Evaluative Mediation Task Force Report Available for Comment

The report of the Commission on Dispute Resolution's Task Force on Evaluative Mediation is available at [here](#).

Comments from mediators, mediation trainers, and program directors are welcome. Please send your comments to Liaison Committee Chair Ray Chadwick, at rchadwick@chadwickmediation.com, or Georgia Office of Dispute Resolution Director Shinji Morokuma, at shinji.morokuma@georgiacourts.gov.



In Depth Articles



CaseWatch for Arbitrators:

The Right Facts Needed to Successfully Challenge an Arbitration Award

The Right Facts Needed to Successfully Challenge an Arbitration Award



John Allgood

If you bring statutory challenges to an arbitration award, you best have the precise facts required to support your argument rather than a generalized disagreement with the award, according to a 2015 decision by the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit.

[Read Full Article](#)



Michele Gibson

Marketing Tip: For Marketing Success, Be Known, Be Found, Be Remembered

Whether you market via digital or traditional methods, there are three distinct legs to the marketing stool. Take any one of them away and the stool will tip over, so it is important to include all three of them when designing your marketing strategy.

[Read Full Article](#)

In The News

"In the News" is a new feature of the GODR newsletter designed to keep readers abreast of happenings with their fellow ADR practitioners. Whether it be awards, a new book published, a profile published, etc., we want to know about it so we can share it with you and others



Edie Primm Recognized for Outstanding Contributions to Dispute Resolution in Georgia

The Commission on Dispute Resolution and the Dispute Resolution Section of the State Bar of Georgia awarded the 2015 Chief Justice Harold C. Clarke Award to Edith B. Primm, Esq., Director of the Justice Center of Atlanta, in recognition of her outstanding contributions to the field of alternative dispute resolution in Georgia.

Chief Judge Sara Doyle, Georgia Court of Appeals and Commission member, presented the award to Ms. Primm on Thursday, December 10, at the Justice Center.

Primm has held senior staff positions at the Justice Center since 1979, just two years after its founding. Under her leadership, the Justice Center is now nationally and internationally known as a premier provider of ADR services and mediation training.

The Supreme Court appointed Primm to the Commission in 2008 and appointed her Commission Chair in 2009. As Chair, Primm kept the Georgia Office of Dispute Resolution open and functioning while the Offices state funding was cut from \$365,000/year to zero. She implemented an aggressive strategy to make the Office self-supporting on fees. By keeping the state office open, she also guaranteed that the court-connected dispute resolution system could continue to operate to the benefit of litigants statewide.

After she ensured the Offices fiscal and administrative independence, she resigned as Chair in 2012. She continues as a member of the Commission. In recognition of her leadership during the fiscal crisis, the Supreme Court of Georgia in 2012 issued a Resolution noting her distinguished service and contribution to the administration of justice in Georgia.

Edie Primm is one of the pioneers of alternative dispute resolution, said Commission Chair Judge Charles E. Auslander III. Dispute resolution in the courts, in fact, dispute resolution in Georgia, owes its existence to visionary leaders like Ms. Primm and Justice Clarke.

A lawyer by training, Primm has served as a mediator or arbitrator in many significant local and national cases, including: the Presidential Parkway case in Atlanta; gender discrimination cases involving Merrill Lynch and Smith Barney; breast implant cases against major manufacturers; and Dalkon Shield cases involving IUD devices made by AH Robins. Primm helped create the U.S. Postal Services mediation program in the Southeast, and she was one of the first mediators with U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

Today, she her personal passion is mediating special education cases to make sure that children with special needs get the services they deserve from their schools.

Primm is only the second winner of the Clarke Award. The inaugural Clarke Award was given in 2013 to Ansley B. Barton, Esq., mediator, mediation trainer, and founding director of the Georgia Office of Dispute Resolution.

The Commission and the Dispute Resolution Section created the Clarke Award in 2013 to honor the memory of the late Supreme Court Chief Justice Harold C. Clarke. From 1990 to 1994, when Clarke served as Chief Justice, he led the Supreme Court and the State Bar of Georgia in creating a system that helped courts manage their heavy dockets and that offered litigants productive ways to resolve their legal disputes outside of litigation. Today that system helps settle tens of thousands of civil cases a year through processes like mediation, arbitration, and early neutral evaluation.

What We're Reading

We all read articles in the general media that talk about how mediation is used, about court decisions involving mediation, or about tangential issues such as body language and negotiation. "What We're Reading" is a new section of this newsletter designed to share some of the best of those articles with you. Inclusion of articles here does not imply an endorsement of the author's thesis - rather they are included to spur discussion among you and your colleagues. Read something recently that others would enjoy? Send it along, and we'll look at publishing it in the next issue.

Read

How to Identify Which Cases are Ripe for Mediation

Read

The Role of Lawyers in Mediation

Read

When to Make the First Offer in Negotiation (according to science)

Read

Choosing An Eldercare Mediator

FREE - 60 Days of Email Marketing



Have you been thinking about using email or events to market your practice? Constant Contact (the company we use to create & email this newsletter) is offering a free 60 day trial account for new customers. The free account is limited to 100 contacts per email but you can upload an unlimited number of contacts. There is no credit card or any other commitment required for the offer. In addition, they'll give you another 10-15% off if you prepay for 3 or 6 months of service! Not only do they offer newsletter services but with their Email Plus (Toolkit Essentials) product you also get things such as their survey & event tools included at no additional charge.

Link to purchase: <http://www.constantcontact.com>

Product to try: Email Plus (or Toolkit Essentials)

CE Calendar

Check frequently at our website for the latest CE and training offerings. Remember, any ADR-related training you take counts as CE as long as you took it since your last renewal or your initial registration, whichever comes later. Lawyers, any CLE you took during that same time period counts as CE. Likewise, judges and CJE. Accountants and other professionals with CE requirements, same thing.

And remember, we have posted videos on our website that registered neutrals can watch for free to earn CE credit. Each video is at least one-hour long. Neutrals are free to watch the videos as many times as they wish, but we can only award 1 CE hour credit for each video once a renewal season. Please note the date you finished viewing each video so you can report it on your renewal form. Remember, registered neutrals are required to take at least 3 hours of CE each year in order to renew their registrations. Look for the link, [Continuing Education Videos](#), in the main menu of our website. For more information on what qualifies for CE, please see the [Help! I Need CE! link](#) link on our website.

February 26

ADR Joint Breakfast and CLE

Presenters:

The American Law Institute, The Atlanta International Arbitration Society, Atlanta Center for International Arbitration and Mediation, and the State Bar of Georgia International Law Section

Time: 7:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Location: ACIAM Headquarters at Georgia State University College of Law, 85 Park Place NE, Atlanta, GA

Cost: \$20

Last Day To Register - February 19th

Info: [click here for registration info](#)

Contact Info: Derrick Stanley at 404-527-8774 or derricks@gabar.org

Potential CE Hours: 1.5 hours

Share This Publication

Please forward this newsletter to anyone who might be interested in ADR in Georgia courts. Forward it just as you would any other e-mail. If folks who are not registered neutrals want to receive the newsletter free of charge, they can submit their e-mail addresses in the subscription box at the bottom right of the home page of our [website](#). And sending us feedback is easy just reply to this e-mail as you would any other e-mail. We want to hear from you !