Court Committee Highlights Three Model Court Programs

As part of its ongoing effort to support research, education, administration, and information exchange in court ADR, the Court Committee has drafted summaries of three court ADR programs. These "Program Models" are meant to provide examples of the various design options and operational challenges facing court ADR programs. The three featured programs made explicit design choices reflecting the culture of the bar, bench, and ADR community, the statutory and rule framework of the jurisdiction, as well as many other factors.

One program model describes the San Mateo County program, a collection of seven countywide, mostly voluntary programs representing a broad array of ADR options. A second summary describes the Northern District of Ohio federal program, a federal multi-door ADR program. The third summary describes the New York state program that offers state-wide funding for community mediation through the Community Dispute Resolution Centers Program. Each program model provides detailed summaries of the structure of the program, as well as the successes and ongoing challenges.

We offer these Program Models as educational models and do not mean to hold them up as "ideal" models for court dispute resolution program. The ideal model for each court is the one adapted to its own court system, culture, financial limitations, etc. These three models provide examples for program design as well as lessons for how to adapt, evolve, and grow a program over time.

The Program models are posted on the right side of this page under "related resources."