I. Introduction

The American Bar Association Section of Dispute Resolution has developed this clearinghouse of state and federal court ADR programs in order to track the growth of court ADR and provide basic details to court personnel, members of the public and practicing attorneys regarding the specific programs available in various jurisdictions.

The clearinghouse includes a short description of each program, as well as statutory authorizations and relevant rules. A web site for the ADR program or the court is also listed, where available. The clearinghouse is divided into three groups: state court programs, federal district court programs, and federal circuit court programs.

The information included in the clearinghouse was collected by surveying the staff in each program. Not all court programs responded to the survey; therefore, ABA staff researched individual programs to update the relevant information. We encourage you to visit the court’s web site to ensure the information is still current and accurate.

In addition to basic descriptive information about each program, we also asked the state court programs to provide detailed information about the program’s structure, services offered, types of dispute resolution processes, and program funding information. A summary of the detailed responses is provided below.

Operation and Structure of Dispute Resolution in the State Courts

The structure and operation of dispute resolution programs in state courts varies significantly from state to state. Each state court system has evolved a structure that is unique to the state’s judicial system, legal culture, and the dispute resolution systems already in place. In some states, there is a centralized structure, with the dispute resolution programs directed by the state supreme court or the administrative office of the courts. In other states, there is little centralized oversight and the dispute resolution options vary from county to county.

It is almost impossible to categorize and compare state court programs. Some programs are housed in the state supreme court, others are independent entities or partnerships with universities or bar associations. Some programs offer extensive services to the courts and communities within the state, others have limited roles, such as maintenance of a roster of mediators and/or arbitrators. Nevertheless, we assigned each of the state court programs to five broad categories, based on the mission, location, and authority of the program:

- 36 of the programs were identified as state court programs based in the state supreme court or administrative office of the courts
- 9 of the programs were identified as state-wide offices of dispute resolution (defined as an office that provides dispute resolution services state-wide to courts, state agencies and other entities, including schools, local governments, etc.)
- 4 programs were identified as state appellate court programs (please note that a number of programs assigned to another category also offer dispute resolution for appeals)
- 2 programs are based in a university
- 1 program is based in a bar association
Program Type of Services Provided

The state court programs also vary widely in terms of the services they offer. Five of the state programs provide staff mediators and nineteen programs maintain a roster or a list of qualified or credentialed neutrals. Sixteen state programs provide training and nineteen provide education. Seventeen state programs provide program development (technical assistance to create new or modified court programs within the state). Fourteen programs evaluate ADR programs and nine administer dispute resolution processes.

Programs offered

All fifty states (including Washington, D.C. and Puerto Rico) offer some form of dispute resolution for cases filed in state courts. By far the most common dispute resolution process is mediation. Thirty-nine states offer voluntary mediation; seventeen states require mandatory mediation. As for arbitration, twenty states offer voluntary arbitration while seven require mandatory arbitration. Also, thirteen states have non-binding arbitration. Other processes offered include:

- Early neutral evaluation (13 states)
- Settlement conferences (13 states)
- Facilitation (6 states)
- Summary jury trials (6 states)
- Multi-door programs (5 states)
- Med-arb (4 states)
- Mini trials (3 states)
- Parenting coordination (3 states)
- special masters (2 states)
- Custody assessments (2 states)
- Case management (2 states)
- Settlement week (2 states)
- Conciliation (1 state)

Types of cases for which ADR is offered

ADR processes are available for many different types of cases within state court programs. The list below includes the types of cases for which a dispute resolution process is available. Some states limit the availability of certain dispute resolution processes to specific types of disputes. For instance, one state may offer mediation for divorcing couples and parenting coordination for custody disputes. Unfortunately, correlating the type of process offered with the type of dispute was outside the scope of this survey.

According to the clearinghouse survey, the following numbers of states offer dispute resolution for the type of case:

- Custody and visitation cases (39 states)
- Civil cases (38 states)
- Divorce cases (34 states)
- Small claims cases (20 states)
- Child welfare and dependency cases (14 states)
- Probate cases (14 states)
- Appellate cases (13 states)
- Community dispute cases (14 states)
- Victim offender cases (11 states)
- Criminal cases (7 states)
- Adult guardianship cases (7 states)
- Class action cases (2 states)

**Who Mediates?**

In twenty state programs the cases are referred to a roster or panel maintained by the court. In fifteen programs the court refers cases to neutrals outside the court and in another fifteen programs, the cases are mediated by private neutrals selected by the parties. Six state programs have staff mediators (in three programs the staff mediators mediate all the cases referred to mediation). In five state programs, the cases are mediated primarily by community mediation centers.

**Who Pays?**

In the majority of state programs (24) the neutrals are paid by the parties. In nine state programs neutrals are paid by the court on an hourly basis and eight programs have volunteer neutrals. Five programs have staff mediators.

**Funding for Program Support**

Of the 30 state programs that responded to our question about program funding, 22 get at least some of their funding from legislative appropriations, while 11 of those 22 get all their funding from appropriations. Other sources include certification and/or filing fees (14 states), fees from training programs (2 states), grant funding (2 states) and funding in part from fees for services (3 states). One state program is funded in part by state bar support.

The program budgets for state court programs range from $1500 to 1.8 million dollars.

**II. A Brief History of Dispute Resolution in the Courts**

This detailed summary of court dispute resolution programs indicates a relatively robust system. However, dispute resolution in the courts is a relatively new phenomenon. Settlement and negotiation have always been options for litigants, but only in recent decades have the courts established formalized programs and rules to encourage litigants to use alternatives to resolve their disputes.

**State court dispute resolution programs**

In the 1960’s communities were experimenting with neighborhood justice centers and states were using ADR occasionally for disputes with low stakes or results that did not involve monetary relief. As court
dockets grew and the cost and delay of litigation increased, courts turned to dispute resolution processes as a means to improve the delivery of justice.

In 1976, Frank Sander delivered a speech at the ABA’s Pound Conference in which Sander articulated his vision for the multi-door courthouse. In a multi-door courthouse a court clerk would screen cases and refer them to the process most appropriate to the nature of the dispute, the relationship between the parties, the amount in dispute, the cost and the speed. The envisioned processes included mediation, arbitration, fact finding, a malpractice screening panel, a superior court, and an ombudsman. Sander wanted not simply a court house, but a dispute resolution center.

In the mid-1980's, cities began to open ADR centers and the idea of using ADR as an alternative to litigation under the court systems began gaining more momentum. By the early 1990's, many states had begun enacting legislation to authorize their courts to offer ADR.

Federal court dispute resolution programs

After Sander’s speech, the first court-annexed mandatory arbitration programs in federal courts were established in 1978 on a trial basis. In 1988, Title IX of the Judicial Improvements and Access to Justice Act enabled experimental arbitration programs in several more districts. Amendments to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 16 in 1983 required consideration of settlement or use of extrajudicial procedures to resolve a dispute.

In 1990 the Civil Justice Reform Act required federal district courts to find ways to reduce the expense and delay in the system and also required the consideration of whether to refer certain cases to alternative dispute resolution programs.

The Alternative Dispute Resolution Act of 1998 required all federal district courts to authorize the use of ADR in civil actions and bankruptcy adversary proceedings, and litigants to consider the use of ADR.

Benefits of Dispute Resolution in the Courts

Dispute Resolution programs have been incorporated into the judicial system on the assumption that dispute resolution saves litigants time and money, saves the judicial system resources, and provides greater satisfaction to disputants because they have greater control over the dispute resolution process.

While a number of studies have shown that dispute resolution program do result in cost savings, time savings, and greater satisfaction. There are also a few studies showing the opposite. For a thorough review of these studies, see the Bibliographic Summary of Cost, Pace, and Satisfaction Studies of Court-Related Mediation Programs, 2nd Edition, prepared by the Center for the Analysis of ADR Systems CAADRS): http://www.caadrs.org/studies/MedStudyBiblio.htm.
ALABAMA

Organization: Alabama Center for Dispute Resolution
Contact Person: Judith Keegan
Title: Executive Director
Email Address: judy.keegan@alabar.org
Web Site(s): http://www.alabamaADR.org

Description of Program:
Responsible for development and implementation of ADR in courts, communities, businesses, agencies & schools of Alabama.

Relevant Statute(s):
AL Stat, 6-6-20(Med); 6-6-1(Arb)

Relevant Rule(s):
Code of Ethics for Mediators; Standards for Mediators & Arbitrators; Civil Court Mediation Rules; Appellate Mediation Rule 55

Special Programs:
Appellate Mediation, Restorative Justice, Small Claims Volunteer Mediator Program, Criminal Mediation

ALASKA

Organization: Alaska Court System
Contact Person: Karen Largent
Title: Dispute Resolution Coordinator
Email Address: klargent@courts.state.ak.us
Web Site(s): http://www.state.ak.us/courts/mediation.htm

Description of Program:
A variety of programs are offered in courts throughout the state.

Relevant Statute(s):
AK Stat, Ch. 9.43, Ch. 25.20, Sec. 23.40.190

Relevant Rule(s):
AK RCP 16(a)(5), 100
ARIZONA

Court: Arizona Supreme Court

Description of Program:
Under ARCP, Rule 16(g)(1), effective December 1, 2001, the court may direct parties in any action to submit their dispute to a court authorized ADR Program. Under Rule 16(g)(2), parties to disputes have a duty to consider ADR, confer with one another about using an ADR process within 90 days of the first appearance, and report the outcome of their conference to the court within 30 days after their conference. Judges will issue a request form, corresponding to a specific ADR Program, to refer a matter to ADR. Currently, court-annexed compulsory arbitration is under the Courts Civil Division. The Alternative Dispute Resolution Fund was created in 1991 to fund local, regional or statewide projects that establish, maintain, improve or enhance ADR programs in the superior court and justice of the peace courts (A.R.S. §12-135).

Relevant Statute(s):
AZ Stat, 12-1501 (Arb), 134(Med), 135 et seq

Relevant Rule(s):
Rule 16(g)

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Court: Arizona Superior Court in Maricopa County
Web Site(s): http://www.superiorcourt.maricopa.gov/adr/programs/programs.asp

Description of Program:
Maricopa County has a major mediation program: 1500 cases are mediated each year in the limited jurisdiction courts, and 7,500 domestic relations cases are mediated each year in Superior Court. Civil Court Settlement Conferences, Civil Court Short trials. Family Court Settlement Conferences, Justice Court Mediation Program, and Probate Mediation programs are available.

Relevant Rule(s): Rule 16(g)

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Court: Arizona Superior Court in Yavapai County
Contact Person: Kathy McCormick
Title: Alternative Dispute Resolution Coordinator
Email Address: KMcCormi@courts.az.gov

Description of Program: The court provides conciliation, custody and access mediation, civil mediation, Dependency and Severence mediations and Victim Offender mediations.
Description of Program:
We are responsible for providing education to the courts, other government agencies and the public on the methods, advantages and applications of ADR; for assisting state and local courts and governmental and other agencies with the development and implementation of alternative dispute resolution programs; and for the certification, professional conduct, discipline and training of court mediators.

Relevant Statute(s):
AR Code 16-7-101 et seq; 9-12-322, 16-108-101 et. seq

Relevant Rule(s):
Requirements for the Certification of Mediators for Circuit Courts, Procedures for the Discipline of Mediators, Requirements for the Conduct of Mediations and Mediators, Minimum Standards for Basic Mediation Training

Special Programs:
Statewide family mediation program focusing on custody, visitation and parenting issues
CALIFORNIA

Organization: California Administrative Office of the Courts
Contact Person: Heather Anderson
Title: Senior Attorney
Email Address: Heather.Anderson@jud.ca.gov
Web Site(s): http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/adr/
           http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/adr/tcadr.htm

Description of Program:
The Administrative office of the courts does not directly administer any ADR programs - these
programs are administered by the individual courts. However, the AOC's governing body, the
Judicial Council, sets statewide rules of court and forms for court ADR programs and also
periodically evaluates court ADR programs.

Relevant Statute(s):
Civil Proc Code Sec 1280+(Arb), Sec 1775+ (Med)
www.legalinfo.ca.gov/calaw.htm

Relevant Rule(s):
General rules fo ADR in civil cases: California Rules of Court, rules 201.7, 201.9, 212 and 1580
et. Seq. Mediation: California Rules of Court rules 1620 et seq.

Court: Marin County Superior Court
Title: Court Process Specialist/Arbitration Calendar
Email Address: ADR@marincourt.org
Web Site(s): http://co.marin.ca.us/depts/MC/main/index.cfm

Court: San Diego Superior Court
Web Site(s): http://www.sandiego.courts.ca.gov/superior/courts/adr.html

Description of Program:
It is the court's expectation that each case will attempt mediation or other ADR process before
trial. Program responsible for design, implementation, panel management and education.

Relevant Statute(s):
CCP 1730, CCP 1775, Ethics rule 1620, CCP 1141.10, CPC 212

Special Programs:
Probate mediation program
Court: San Mateo Superior Court
Organization: Multi-option ADR Project
Contact Person: Sheila Purcell
Title: ADR Director
Email Address: spurcell@sanmateocourt.org
Web Site(s): www.sanmateocourt.org

Description of Program:
All kinds of cases referred and assessed for possible use of ADR with assistance of court ADR staff.

Relevant Statute(s):
The civil program comports with Calif. Rules of Conduct for Mediators in Court-Connected Mediation Programs for Civil Cases 3.850-3.868; Evidence Code 1115-1128, and 703.5; Calif. Rules of Court 1580-1580.3; CCP 1141.10-1141.31 Judicial Arbitration; CCP 1281.85 Ethics Standards for Neutral Arbitrators; Rules of Court 1405.5 Juvenile Dependency Mediation Program Requirements.

Special Programs:
Bilingual Interpreters available. Pro bono and modest means assistance available to those eligible based on simple one page income-based screening. Dependency and Delinquency programs in the state court system are unique. Community mediation center volunteers handle the cases. Family law program has two prongs: 1 staff mediator and 1 private list.

Court: Contra Costa County Superior Court
Contact Person: John R. Helie
Title: ADR Programs Director
Web Site(s): www.cc-courts.org

Description of Program:
We provide comprehensive ADR services to limited and unlimited jurisdiction civil cases and probate cases.

Relevant Rule(s):
Appendix C, Local Court Rules: Sections 1 through 7

Special Programs:
Collaborate with community programs funded by DRPA to provide small claims, unlawful detainer, and civil harassment mediation services in the courts.
Court: Santa Barbara Superior Court
Organization: Court-Administered Dispute Resolution
Email Address: cadre@sbcourts.org
Web Site(s): www.sbcadre.org

Description of Program: See www.sbcadre.org

Relevant Statute(s): CCP 1775 et seq

Relevant Rule(s): SBSC Local Rule 1102
COLORADO

Organization: Colorado Judicial Branch Office of Dispute Resolution
Contact Person: Cynthia Savage
Title: Director
Email Address: cynthia.savage@judicial.state.co.us
Web Site(s): www.courts.state.co.us/chs/court/mediation/odrindex.htm

Description of Program:
Statewide court ADR program. Program Design, Implementation, Administration, and Evaluation, including direct provision of ADR services to parties, primarily (but not exclusively) within the state court system. Services provided for cases not filed in court, in addition to services for filed cases. Case types include domestic relations, civil, juvenile, dependency and neglect (child welfare), and criminal cases.

Relevant Statute(s):

Relevant Rule(s):

Special Programs:
Truancy Mediation and Family Group Conferencing, Dependency and Neglect Mediation (child welfare), One Day Jury Trial, Early Neutral Evaluation in felony cases

CONNECTICUT

Organization: Connecticut Court Annexed Mediation Program
Web Site(s): http://www.jud.ct.gov/external/super/altdisp.htm

Description of Program:
Upon agreement of the parties, any Civil or Family Matter is eligible to be referred to a private ADR program. When a case is referred all court proceedings, including short calendar assignment will be stayed. The court will set a time limit on the duration of the referral consistent with applicable rules and statutes. A directory of private ADR providers is available in each Judicial District Clerk's Office. At the request of the parties any Civil or Family Matters is eligible to be referred to court-annexed ADR programs.

Relevant Statute(s):
CT Chap 909 (Arb) (Title 52-408); C.G.S. Section 51-5a
DELAWARE

Organization: Superior Court of Delaware
Contact Person: Margaret Derrickson
Title: Alternative Dispute Resolution Director
Email Address: Margaret.Derrickson@state.de.us
Web Site(s): http://courts.state.de.us/superior

Description of Program:
All civil actions in which trial is available, monetary damages are sought, any nonmonetary claims are nominal, and counsel for claimant has not certified that damages exceed one hundred thousand dollars ($100,000) exclusive of costs and interest, are subject to compulsory alternative dispute resolution. There are exceptions which are listed in Civil Rule 16.1 (d), but even for these exceptions, the parties may stipulate to a form of ADR.

Relevant Statute(s):
Superior Court Civil Rule 16.1

Relevant Rule(s):
Rule 16.1 includes guidelines for Certification; Code of Judicial Conduct; Confidentiality; and the use of the Delaware Uniform Rules of Evidence, among others.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Court: Superior Court of the District of Columbia
Organization: Multi-Door Dispute Resolution Division
Contact Person: Jeannie Adams
Title: Director
Web Site(s): http://www.dccourts.gov/dccourts/superior/multi/index.jsp

Description of Program:
The Multi-Door Dispute Resolution Division (Multi-Door) helps parties settle disputes through mediation and other types of appropriate dispute resolution (ADR), including arbitration, case evaluation and conciliation. The name "Multi-Door" comes from the multi-door courthouse concept, which envisions one courthouse with multiple dispute resolution doors or programs. Cases are referred through the appropriate door for resolution. The Multi-Door Dispute Resolution Division of the D.C. Superior Court assists parties to reach agreements that meet their interests, preserve relationships, and save time and money. Mediators and dispute resolution specialists are trained at Multi-Door to serve in a wide range of cases, from civil to small claims, to family.

Relevant Rule(s):
D.C. SCR-Civil Rule 16
FLORIDA

Organization: Florida Dispute Resolution Center
Contact Person: Sharon Press
Title: Director
Email Address: PressS@flcourts.org
Web Site(s): http://www.flcourts.org/gen_public/adr/index.shtml

Description of Program:
Provide technical assistance to courts wishing to establish mediation and/or arbitration programs; conduct Supreme Court Certified Training and Continuing Mediator (and legal) education programs (county mediation and court-ordered arbitration); Certify mediators; Certify and monitor mediation and arbitration training programs.

Relevant Statute(s):

Relevant Rule(s):

Special Programs:
Court mediation programs in county and circuit trial courts (includes small claims, all civil cases, domestic relations and juvenile dependency); appellate mediation; trial court arbitration programs; innovations as funded through the ADR innovation grants program
GEORGIA

Organization: Georgia Office of Dispute Resolution
Contact Person: Shinji Morokuma
Title: Director
Email Address: gaodr@gasupreme.us
Web Site(s): www.godr.org

Description of Program:
The Georgia Commission on Dispute Resolution is the policy-making body appointed by the Georgia Supreme Court to oversee the development of court-connected ADR programs in Georgia. The Commission, working through its staff at the Georgia Office of Dispute Resolution, has created a statewide plan for ADR in Georgia. This plan enables any superior, state, probate, magistrate or juvenile court in Georgia to offer litigants alternatives to trial under provisions set forth in the Georgia Supreme Court Alternative Dispute Resolution Rules and the filing fee surcharge legislation which supports the administration of local ADR programs.

Relevant Statute(s):
GA Stat 15-23 (ADR Act), 9-9-1+ (Arb)

Relevant Rule(s):
Alternative Dispute Resolution Rules (PDF) Complete Rules with Appendix:
http://www.godr.org/rules_statutes.html; Appendix A: (PDF) Uniform Rules for Dispute Resolution Programs; Appendix B: (PDF) Requirements for Qualifications and Training of Neutrals; Appendix C, Chapter 1: (PDF) Ethical Standards for Neutrals (Posted 01-09-2006); Appendix C, Chapter 2: (PDF) Ethics Procedures
HAWAII

Court: Hawaii
Organization: Center for Alternative Dispute Resolution
Contact Person: Pamela B. Martin
Email Address: pamela.b.martin@courts.state.hi.us
Web Site(s): http://www.courts.state.hi.us/index.jsp

Description of Program:
Hawaii's Center for Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) was established to help mediate complex litigations, and administrative and judicial disputes that affect the public interest or that involve agencies of state and local government. The Center: Designs and assists with implementation of dispute resolution systems for the judicial, legislative, and executive branches of government (state and county). Mediates and facilitates a limited number of disputes dealing with public policy or complex litigation referred by judges, legislators, agency heads, or elected or appointed government officials. Manages the Judiciary's Purchase of Services contract with the community mediation centers for mediation and dispute resolution services. Promotes ADR through research, training, education programs, forums, publication of newsletters, consumer guides, and other informational materials.

Relevant Statute(s):
HI Stat Chap 613 (ADR Ctr), 658 (Arb)

Special Programs:
Volunteer Settlement Master for divorcing couples. The VSM will meet with the divorcing couple and their attorneys for up to 3½ hours, or longer, to give them an opportunity to express their points of view. The VSM will not take sides or make decisions for the parties. Instead, using his or her skills and experience as a family law attorney, the VSM will try to help the parties reach an agreement that is fair, and that everyone can accept. The VSM guides the process; the parties create the agreement.

IDAHO

Court: Idaho Supreme Court
Web Site(s): www2.state.id.us/cao/service.asp?service_id=3

Description of Program:
The court has discretion to order a case to mediation in all civil cases. Other processes offered include Parenting coordination, arbitration, and settlement conferences.
ILLINOIS

**Description of Program:**
The Illinois Supreme Court and Illinois General Assembly created court-annexed mandatory arbitration to reduce the backlog of civil cases and to provide litigants with a forum other than the trial courts in which their complaint could be more expeditiously resolved by an impartial factfinder.

**Relevant Statute(s):**
735 ILCS 5/2 - 1001A et seq.

**Relevant Rule(s):**
Illinois Supreme Court Rule 86 et seq.

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**Organization:** Center for Analysis of Alternative Dispute Resolution Systems (CAADRS)
**Contact Person:** Susan Yates
**Email Address:** caadrs@caadrs.org
**Web Site(s):** http://www.caadrs.org/

**Description of Program:**
CAADRS provides technical assistance, monitoring and evaluation services to state and federal courts in Illinois to assist them in making the most efficient and effective use of ADR systems. On a national level, CAADRS provides a Resource Center to gather and disseminate reliable information on court ADR.
INDIANA

Court: Indiana Supreme Court
Organization: Indiana Commission for Continuing Legal Education
Contact Person: Anne Davidson
Email Address: adavidso@courts.state.in.us
Web Site(s): http://www.in.gov/judiciary/selfservice/mediators.html

Description of Program:
Indiana Commission for Continuing Legal Education maintains a registry of mediators who have successfully completed the Commission's application process prescribed by Alternate Dispute Resolution Rule 2.3.

Relevant Statute(s):
Ind.Code§§34-57-3-1 - 34-6-2-79

Relevant Rule(s):
Indiana Rules of Court, Rules For Alternative Dispute Resolution;
http://www.courts.state.in.us/CourtMed.nsf/adr_rule

IOWA

Organization: Supreme Court of Iowa

Description of Program:
A dispute resolution program of the establishment and support of locally organized dispute resolution centers is administered by the office of the prosecuting attorneys training coordinator and is coordinated by the executive director. The following types of cases may be referred to dispute resolution: civil claims and disputes, disputes concerning child custody and visitation rights, juvenile offenses, and criminal complaints. Cases may be referred to dispute resolution at any stage of proceedings.

Relevant Statute(s):
IA Stat Chap 679 (DR)
KANSAS

Court: Kansas Supreme Court
Organization: Office of Judicial Administration
Contact Person: Art Thompson
Email Address: Thompsona@kscourts.org
Web Site(s): http://www.kscourts.org/adr/

Description of Program:
We provide assistance to courts and state government in establishing, modifying and evaluating dispute resolution programs. We also approve mediators and mediator training.

Relevant Statute(s):

Relevant Rule(s):
Supreme Court Rules 901, 902, 903 & 904

Special Programs:
Permanency mediation programs, restorative justice programs, probate programs, informal dispute resolution in employment cases, Judicial Settlement Conferences.

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KENTUCKY

Organization: Kentucky Administrative Office of the Courts
Contact Person: Carol Paisley
Email Address: ADR@mail.aoc.state.ky.us
Web Site(s): http://www.kycourts.net/AOC/ADR/AOC_ADR.htm

Description of Program:
The Mediation and Family Court Services Department promotes and implements alternative dispute resolution services throughout Kentucky's Court of Justice. Many of Kentucky's jurisdictions have local rules authorizing judges to refer all kinds of cases to mediation.

Relevant Statute(s):

Relevant Rule(s):
Model Mediation Rules
LOUISIANA

Organization: Supreme Court of Louisiana
Contact Person: Tracy Buccino
Title: Research Attorney
Web Site(s): http://www.lasc.org

Description of Program:
The Orleans Parish Juvenile Court Permanency Mediation Program employs mediation in Child in Need of Care and Termination of Parental Rights cases. In the First Circuit Court of Appeals Pilot Mediation Program, mediators are provided free of charge. Participation in the program is completely voluntary and takes place only where all parties agree to participate.

Relevant Statute(s):
Mediation in child custody (R.S. 9:332 et seq.) workers' compensation (R.S. 23:1310), juvenile cases (Ch.C art, 435, et seq.)

Relevant Rule(s):
First Circuit Court of Appeals Pilot Mediation Program. For more information on the program, please see http://www.lasc.org/press_room/press_releases/2003/2003-10.asp

Special Programs:
Permanency Mediation Program, a pilot program in Jefferson and Orleans parishes which employs mediation in Child in Need of Care and Termination of Parental Rights cases

MAINE

Organization: Administrative Office of the Courts, Office of Court ADR
Contact Person: Diane Kenty
Title: Director
Email Address: diane.kenty@maine.gov
Web Site(s): www.courts.state.me.us

Description of Program:
Mandatory for custody, small claims; voluntary for land use, environmental, general civil litigation

Relevant Statute(s):
ME St. T. 4 §18-B; Maine Rules of Court for referral of cases to the court alternative dispute resolution service rules 1-3.

Relevant Rule(s):
Rule 16B of the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure governs ADR in Superior Court.
**MARYLAND**

**Organization:** Maryland Mediation and Conflict Resolution Office  
**Contact Person:** Rachel Wohl  
**Title:** Executive Director  
**Email Address:** Rachel.Wohl@courts.state.md.us  
**Web Site(s):** www.courts.state.md.us/macro

**Description of Program:**
In the Maryland Circuit Courts all appropriate contested custody and visitation cases are sent to mediation. Each Circuit Court also has a Family Services Coordinator on staff who helps manage this process. Many jurisdictions also have active ADR programs for other civil cases. The Maryland District Court is committed to offering mediation services at no cost to the parties. Thus, the District Court works in partnership with community mediation centers, referring appropriate cases to mediation prior to scheduled court hearings. In addition, several jurisdictions rely on the services of volunteer mediators who offer “day of trial” mediation in the courthouse, often coordinated by local bar associations.

**Relevant Statute(s):**
Maryland Rules, Title 17, Ch. 100-109

**Relevant Rule(s):**
The use of mediation in the Maryland circuit courts is governed by Titles 9 and 17 of the Maryland Rules.
MASSACHUSETTS

Organization: Court-Connected Dispute Resolution Services, Administrative Office of the Probate & Family Court
Contact Person: Christine Yurgelun
Title: Coordinator
Email Address: yurgelun_c@jud.state.ma.us
Web Site(s): www.state.ma.us/courts/
http://omega.cc.umb.edu/~resolution/index.html

Description of Program:
The Chief Justice for Administration and Management appoints up to 20 persons to the Standing Committee on Dispute Resolution in consultation with the Chief Justices of the Trial Court departments. The committee advises the Chief Justice on standards, implementation, and oversight of the court connected programs. The Chief Justice for each trial court department approves programs to receive court referrals and each trial court department may develop experimental non-binding pilot programs for mandatory referral.

Relevant Statute(s):

Court:
Organization:
Contact Person:
Title:
Email Address:
Web Site(s):

Description of Program:
The Massachusetts Office of Dispute Resolution (MODR) is a state agency dedicated to promoting and facilitating alternative dispute resolution (ADR) within public entities.
MICHIGAN

Court: Supreme Court of Michigan
Organization: Office of Dispute Resolution
Contact Person: Doug Van Epps
Title: Director
Email Address: vaneppsd@courts.mi.gov
Web Site(s): http://courts.michigan.gov/scao/dispute/odr.htm

Description of Program:
Oversees grant funding to a network of community mediation centers, coordinates specialized training, conducts pilot projects in new applications of mediation, and conducts evaluation.
Assists trial court in implementing ADR programs

Relevant Statute(s):
Michigan compiled laws Ch. 691551 et seq., Michigan Rules of Civil Procedure, Ch. 2.400 Pretrial Procedure, Alternative Dispute Resolution.

Relevant Rule(s):
Michigan Court Rules 2.410, 2.411, 3.216

MINNESOTA

Court: Minnesota
Organization: Supreme Court ADR Review Board
Contact Person: Michelle Sorvari
Title: ADR Assistant
Email Address: adr@courts.state.mn.us
Web Site(s): http://www.courts.state.mn.us/?page=303

Description of Program:
The ADR Review Board is appointed by the MN Supreme Court to promote the ethical use of ADR in the court system. The Board reviews complaints and may issue sanctions against neutrals in accordance with Rule 114 Code of Ethics. In addition the Board considers training waivers requests from neutrals. Individuals who have not taken a certified ADR course may ask the Board for a training waiver and be placed on the ADR Rule 114 roster.

Relevant Statute(s):
MN ST CH. 494 (Community Dispute Resolution Program); 484§76, Rules of Practice for District Courts Rule 114.

Relevant Rule(s):
LRCP 114 (ADR Proc)
MISSISSIPPI

Organization:     Administrative Office of the Courts

Description of Program:
The Mississippi Bar ADR Section sponsored a Family Law Mediation Pilot Program, a modified pro-bono mediation services program that lasted through July 31, 2005

Relevant Statute(s):
MS Stat Ann Title 11, CH 15

Relevant Rule(s):
Court Annexed Mediation Rules For Civil Litigation

MISSOURI

Court:            Missouri
Organization:     Office of the State Courts Administrator
Contact Person:   Norma Rahm
Title:            Family Preservation Project Specialist
Email Address:    nrahm@osca.state.mo.us
Web Site(s):      http://www.courts.mo.gov/hosted/circuit13/mediation%20brochure.htm

Description of Program:
Any judge by order or any judicial circuit by local court rule may establish an ADR program as provided in Rule 17. This rule applies to almost all civil cases (except those subject to SC Rules 88.02 to 88.08 which discuss mediation of child custody and visitation disputes). Programs include, but are not limited to: arbitration, early neutral evaluation, mediation, mini-trial, and summary jury trial. All processes are non-binding (and considered settlement negotiations) unless parties enter into a written agreement A civil action is ordered to dispute resolution upon stipulation of the parties, by the court, or may be ordered upon motion of any party. A party may opt out of the process. Court selects neutral if parties cannot.

Both local court rule and the rules of the Missouri Supreme Court require the parties in any case involving contested issues of custody and/or visitation to attend 2 hours of mediation, unless waived by the court. After the 2 hours, either party may terminate the mediation. The parties may select a mediator or if they are unable the court may select a mediator.

Relevant Statute(s):
Supreme Ct Rules 17 and 88, Voluntary Early Dispute Resolution, Rules of the 22nd Judicial Circuit Ct Rule 38.38.5
MONTANA

**Organization:** Montana Supreme Court

**Description of Program:**
Mandatory appellate alternative dispute resolution procedures (provided in Rule 54) apply to cases involving workers’ compensation, domestic relations, and money judgments. Mediation is the procedure used which includes a neutral third party, confidentiality, position statements and no settlement requirement.

**Relevant Rule(s):**
Rule 54 of the Montana Rules of Appellate Procedure

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NEBRASKA

**Court:** Nebraska Supreme Court, State Court Administrator's Office

**Organization:** Office of Dispute Resolution

**Contact Person:** Debora Brownyard

**Title:** Director

**Email Address:** dbrownyard@nsc.state.ne.us

**Web Site(s):** http://www.supremecourt.ne.gov/mediation/

**Description of Program:**
The NE ODR was established by statute in 1991 to administer the Dispute Resolution Act, NRS § 25-2901, et seq., and to serve as staff to the ODR Advisory Council. The office annually evaluates and provides grants to ODR-approved non profit mediation centers that serve citizens throughout Nebraska’s 93 counties. The office also coordinates with other ADR resources in the state, including the Douglas County (Omaha) District Court Conciliation and Mediation Office which provides parenting plan mediation through staff and mediator roster.

**Relevant Statute(s):**

**Special Programs:**
Special Education, Family Group Conferencing, Restorative Justice
NEVADA

Organization: Nevada Supreme Court
Contact Person: Tom Harris
Title: Supervisory Staff Attorney
Web Site(s): http://www.nvsupremecourt.us/ccp/settlement/

Description of Program:
The Supreme Court’s Settlement Conference Program is an Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) program that was started in 1997. Since its inception, 55% of the cases assigned to the program have settled. The program is administered under the provisions of Nevada Rule of Appellate Procedure 16.

Relevant Statute(s):
NV Rev Stat. Ann. Title 3 Ch. 38 Mediation and Arbitration, Uniform Arbitration Act; Supreme Ct Rules Arbitration Rules, NV St Title 20 Ch. 244§ 1607 Neighborhood Justice Center.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Court: New Hampshire Superior Court
Contact Person: Peter Wolfe
Title: Court ADR Coordinator
Email Address: PWolfe@Courts.State.NH.US
Web Site(s): www.courts.state.nh.us
http://www.courts.state.nh.us/adrp/index.htm

Description of Program:
The New Hampshire Court system offers several Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Programs which experience has shown can save time and money both for the parties involved and the Courts. Parties to civil lawsuits in all counties are required to participate in the ADR program, before their cases are scheduled for trial.

Relevant Statute(s):
Superior Ct Rules Vol.1 Rule 170, RSA 328.C, RSA 458115a

Relevant Rule(s):
Superior Court Administrative Rule 23 Neutral Evaluation of Marital Cases; Probate Court Administrative Rule 11 Probate Mediator

Special Programs:
Parent/child mediation
NEW JERSEY

Court: New Jersey
Organization: Administrative Office of the Courts
Contact Person: Kathleen Gaskill
Web Site(s): http://www.judiciary.state.nj.us/services/cdr.htm

Description of Program:
The Supreme Court has approved a variety of dispute resolution programs for use in the Municipal, Family, and Civil courts, including the Special Civil part. Some programs are appropriate for use also in the General Equity Division and Probation. Some programs are mandated by statute, others are required by the Supreme Court for all vicinages (counties), and still others are pilots in selected vicinages or are optional for vicinage implementation. Depending on the vicinage and the program, complementary dispute resolution services generally are provided by trained citizen volunteers, attorneys, judicial personnel, and community agencies.

Relevant Statute(s):
Rules of Ct, Part I Rules of General Application, Ch. 4, Rule 1:40
NEW MEXICO

Court: New Mexico Court of Appeals
Organization: Appellate Mediation Office
Web Site(s): http://www.nmcourts.com/FTP/stuffer.pdf

Description of Program:
Any civil matter pending before the Court is eligible except appeals in which one of the parties is incarcerated, one in which a party does not have legal representation, revocation of a driver’s license, a petition for extraordinary relief, or an appeal arising out of the Children’s Code. The Mediation Office selects cases at random from a pool or counsel for either party may request a mediation conference.

NEW YORK

Court: New York Unified Court System
Organization: Office of ADR and Court Improvement
Contact Person: Daniel Weitz
Title: Coordinator
Email Address: dweitz@courts.state.ny.us
Web Site(s): http://www.courts.state.ny.us/ip/adr/index.shtml

Description of Program:
The Office of Alternative Dispute Resolution Programs is a unit of the Division of Court Operations within the Unified Court System's Office of Court Administration. The Office works with Judges, court administrators and members of the bar to design dispute resolution programs that are responsive to the needs of the communities and courts in which they operate.

Relevant Statute(s):
NORTH CAROLINA

Court: North Carolina
Organization: North Carolina Dispute Resolution Commission
Contact Person: Leslie Ratliff
Title: Executive Secretary
Web Site(s): http://www.nccourts.org/Courts/CRS/Councils/DRC/Default.asp
http://www1.aoc.state.nc.us/mediatorpublic/login.do

Description of Program:
The Commission supports three statewide mediation programs - the Mediated Settlement Conference (MSC) Program, the Family Financial Settlement (FFS) Program, and the new Clerk Mediation (CMP) Program. The MSC Program is designed to promote early settlement of cases filed in superior court, including automobile accident and other negligence cases and business and contract disputes. The FFS Program operates in district court and provides opportunities for early settlement of disputes involving issues of property division, alimony, and child support. The new Clerk Mediation Program allows Clerks to refer an array of matters to mediation, including estate and guardianship disputes. The Commission also supports the Pre-litigation Farm Nuisance Mediation Program, designed to promote early settlement of livestock and agricultural nuisance disputes, and the new Electric Supplier Territorial Disputes Mediation Program for mediation of disputes between electric cooperatives and municipalities that generate electricity.

Relevant Statute(s):
NC ST § 7A-38.5 (community mediation center)

NORTH DAKOTA

Court: North Dakota
Organization: Supreme Court of North Dakota
Web Site(s): http://www.court.state.nd.us/Court/ADR/

Description of Program:
The State Court Administrator maintains a roster of neutrals who may be used by parties to disputes. Those on the roster meet certain minimum requirements for listing. Parties may use neutrals not on the roster. Within 60 days of filing of a lawsuit, parties must discuss ADR and file a statement as to whether it will be used.

Relevant Statute(s):
Rule 8.9 Roster of ADR Neutrals; Rule 8.8
OHIO

Court: Ohio Supreme Court
Organization: Dispute Resolution Programs Section, Judicial and Court Services Division
Contact Person: Jacqueline C. Hagerott
Title: Manager
Email Address: mediate@sconet.state.oh.us
Web Site(s): www.sconet.state.oh.us/dispute_resolution

Description of Program:
The purpose of the Dispute Resolution Section is to promote statewide rules and uniform standards concerning dispute resolution programs and to develop and deliver dispute resolution services to Ohio courts including training programs for judges and court personnel. The Section works with 165 programs in 88 counties including civil, victim offender, parenting issues, child protection, truancy, adult guardianship, housing and pre-filing criminal cases.

Relevant Statute(s):
Ohio Revised Code Section 149.43; Ohio Revised Code Chapter 2710; Uniform Mediation Act (Effective 10/29/05); Ohio Revised Code Section 2919.25; Ohio Revised Code Section 3109.052

Organization: Ohio Commission on Dispute Resolution and Conflict Management
Contact Person: Maria L. Mone
Title: Executive Director
Web Site(s): http://disputeresolution.ohio.gov/commissn.htm

Description of Program:
The Commission acts as teacher, catalyst, consultant, collaborator, trainer, and evaluator. Its mission is to disseminate information about positive ways to manage conflict, resolve disputes, and build foundations upon which these approaches can become part of our social institutions and our individual lives. The Commission focuses its efforts in four primary areas across Ohio's schools, courts, communities, and government.
OKLAHOMA

Court: Oklahoma
Organization: Administrative Office of the Courts
Contact Person: Sue Darst Tate
Title: Director
Email Address: sue.tate@OSCN.net
Web Site(s): www.oscn.net

Description of Program:
Provides convenient access to conflict resolution proceedings that are fair, effective, inexpensive and expeditious for every citizen of the state.

Relevant Statute(s):
OK Statute Title12, Ch.37 §§1801-1813, Ch.38 §§1821-1825

Relevant Rule(s):
Rule and Procedures appended to the Oklahoma Dispute Resolution Act, Title 12, Chapter 37 sections 1801-1813 et seq.

Special Programs:
Insurance complaints, state employment, natural gas producer/pipeline owner, Victim-Offender (adults post-conviction & pre-sentence), Victim restitution/juvenile offender, Adult Guardianship, school-based peer mediation with OBA, Child permanency, Family & Divorce, ADA and Section 504 alleged discrimination.

OREGON

Court: Oregon
Organization: Oregon Office of Court Administration
Contact Person: Erin Ruff
Title: ADR Analyst

Description of Program:
In Oregon, courts and their state and local partners support and provide education so that people learn about conflict resolution from their earliest years through adulthood. To prevent and resolve disputes, we work together to provide everyone with easy access to a network of excellent, culturally responsive services at diverse sites across the state and in every community.

Relevant Statute(s):
OR Rev. Stat. 36.100-36.200; 36.400-36.425
PENNSYLVANIA

Court: Pennsylvania
Organization: Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania
Contact Person: John Gordon
Title: Director
Web Site(s): www.courts.state.pa.us

Description of Program:
Responsible for screening of all appellate and original jurisdiction cases on filing for referral to court mediators parallel to litigation track

Relevant Rule(s):
Commonwealth court internal operating procedure No. 501, 210 Pa Code

PUERTO RICO

Court: Puerto Rico
Web Site(s): http://www.tribunalespr.org/NegMed/index.htm

Relevant Statute(s):
Puerto Rico Title 4, Ch. 44, §532
RHODE ISLAND

Court: Rhode Island Supreme Court
Organization: Appellate Mediation Program
Contact Person: Erika Leigh Kruse
Title: General Counsel & Director of Alternative Dispute Resolution
Email Address: amp@courts.state.ri.us
Web Site(s): http://www.courts.ri.gov/supreme/mediation.htm

Description of Program:
Appellate Mediations conducted by retired justices for certain eligible and appropriate civil appeals. Family Court Family Services has a mediation program for conflicts regarding child custody or visitation.

Relevant Statute(s):
§ 9-19-44. Mediator confidentiality in mediation proceedings.

Relevant Rule(s):
Rhode Island Supreme Court Provisional Rule A as amended.
http://www.courts.state.ri.us/supreme/pdf-files/provisional-ruleA-mediation7-26-04.pdf

SOUTH CAROLINA

Organization: South Carolina Supreme Court Commission on ADR
Contact Person: Joan Brown
Title: Public Services Counsel
Email Address: jbrown@scbar.org
Web Site(s): www.scbar.org/adr

Description of Program:
The South Carolina Bar houses the Supreme Court’s Commission on Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) and related Board of Arbitrator and Mediator Certification, which aid the Court with all aspects of South Carolina court-annexed ADR, including:  Issuing and renewing circuit and family court mediator and arbitrator certificates; Maintaining and distributing the official roster of active certified mediators and arbitrators; and Promoting educational opportunities for users of court ADR programs, including monitoring and approving mediator and arbitrator training.

Relevant Rule(s):
S.C. Court-Annexed ADR Rules
### SOUTH DAKOTA

**Court:** South Dakota  
**Organization:** Unified Judicial System  
**Contact Person:** D.J. Hanson  
**Title:** State Court Administrator

### TENNESSEE

**Court:** Tennessee  
**Organization:** Administrative Office of the Courts  
**Contact Person:** Andrea Ayers  
**Title:** Programs Manager  
**Web Site(s):** http://www.tsc.state.tn.us/geninfo/programs/ADR/adrdir.asp

**Description of Program:**  
The Alternative Dispute Resolution Commission maintains a roster of Rule 31 approved mediators and neutrals.

**Relevant Statute(s):**  
Rules of the Supreme Court of Tennessee, Alternative Dispute Resolution Rule 31

### TEXAS

**Organization:** Center for Public Policy Dispute Resolution  
**Contact Person:** Jan Summer  
**Title:** Executive Director  
**Email Address:** jsummer@mail.law.utexas.edu  
**Web Site(s):** http://www.utexas.edu/law/academics/centers/cppdr/index.html

**Description of Program:**  
The Center for Public Policy Dispute Resolution was created in 1993 to specifically promote the appropriate use of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) in Texas government.

**Relevant Statute(s):**  
The Texas Alternative Dispute Resolution Act(Civ. Prac. & Rem. Code Ann., Chapter 154) authorizes the referral of pending disputes by Texas courts to ADR procedures and establishes ADR confidentiality standards.
UTAH

Court: Utah Supreme Court
Organization: ADR Program, Administrative Offices of the Court
Web Site: www.utcourts.gov/mediation

Description of Program: State court mediation program that oversees mediation programs in communities throughout the state.

Relevant Statute(s):
Utah State Judicial Administration Rule 4-510

VERMONT

Organization: Vermont Family Court Program
Email Address: vfcmp@mail.state.vt.us
Web Site(s): www.vermontjudiciary.org

Description of Program: Vermont Family Court Mediation Program Information:
Mediation for Vermont Families with Children for issues of separation, divorce, parentage, civil union, dissolution, post-divorce & blended families. Mediators are contracted with the Court Administrator of the Vermont Supreme Court.
VIRGINIA

Court: Supreme Court of Virginia
Organization: Dispute Resolution Services
Contact Person: Geetha Ravindra
Title: Director
Email Address: gravindra@courts.state.va.us
Web Site(s): www.courts.state.va.us

Description of Program:
Responsible for the development and integration of ADR programs and services for all the state courts.

Relevant Statute(s):
Va. Code Sections 8.01-576.4-12; 8.01-581.21 – 26

Relevant Rule(s):
Guidelines for the Certification of Court-Refereed Mediators; Standards of Ethics for Court Certified Mediators; Complaint Procedures; Guidelines for the Certification of Mediation Training Programs.

Special Programs:
Restorative Justice programs, child dependency mediation programs, truancy mediation programs, Judicial Settlement Conference
WASHINGTON

Organization: Supreme Court of Washington
Contact Person: Yvonne Pettus
Title: Manager, Planning and Development
Web Site(s): http://www.courts.wa.gov/
http://www.courts.wa.gov/court_dir/?fa=court_dir.dispute

Description of Program:
Community Dispute Resolution Centers were authorized by the state legislature in the 1984 Court Improvement Act. Each DRC is a private, nonprofit organization or a service of local government. Any civil, nonviolent dispute is a candidate for mediation. Some DRCs also accept criminal cases. Most DRCs offer mediation as their primary conflict resolution service.

Relevant Statute(s):
Washington Statute 7.75.010 (Dispute Resolution Centers) Superior Court Mandatory Arbitration (7.06) Rules 1.1- 8.5 ; Mediation of Health Care Claims (7.70.100); Each county has its own rules.

Relevant Rule(s):
Superior Court Civil Rule 53.4 (mandatory mediation of healthcare claims); Superior Court Mandatory Arbitration Rules
WEST VIRGINIA

Court: West Virginia
Contact Person: Joan Mullins
Title: Family Court Services

Description of Program:
In the family court system parents who are not able to agree on shared parenting responsibilities must attempt to mediate their dispute. Some parents are not required to attempt mediation. For example, mediation is not required in cases where there is a history of domestic violence, substance abuse, mental illness, or a significant power imbalance. Every family court office provides premediation screening to determine if these factors might prevent parents from meaningfully participating in mediation. If mediation is appropriate, the family court will designate a person or an agency to conduct the mediation. Parents must pay for mediation at an hourly rate based on their combined annual incomes. Many mediators volunteer their time to mediate cases for indigent parents.

Relevant Statute(s):
WV Rules of Trial Ct. Rule 25.01-25.16

Special Programs:
Recognizing that the nature of magistrate court cases is particularly suited to mediation, the Monongalia County Magistrate Court assigns selected cases to mediation as an alternative to litigation. The Magistrate Court Mediation Program began as a pilot project in Monongalia County in 2002 through a coordination of the efforts of the Supreme Court of Appeals, the Monongalia County Circuit Court, the Monongalia County Magistrate Court, and the West Virginia State Bar. Throughout the school year, law students who have completed the State Bar’s Basic Mediator Training serve as mediators, with one attorney “on call” if needed. During the summer, attorney mediators, mediators from West Virginia University’s Center for Dispute Resolution, and mediators from Ohio Valley College work with the program.

WISCONSIN

Court: Wisconsin
Contact Person: Randy Sproule
Title: Medical Mediation Panels Coordinator

Description of Program:

Relevant Statute(s):
WI Stat, Ann CH. 788, Ch. 802.12
Description of Program:
The court may assign or a party may request a case to be assigned to nonbinding alternative dispute resolution methods, including settlement conference and mediation. The clerk of the Supreme Court maintains a registry of the names of qualified persons who are available to accept assignments of cases. The rule doesn’t preclude parties from agreeing to submit their dispute to other forms of ADR, including arbitration and summary jury trial.

Relevant Statute(s):
WY Rules of Civil Procedure 40
Description of Program:
Civil Appeals Management Program: This program involves a pre-argument mediation conference for any civil case (with exceptions). Parties who are not eligible may not request mediation. An active circuit judge oversees the program and assigns cases to the settlement counsel who conducts the mediation conferences. Most conferences are held in person.

Relevant Rule(s):
FRAP 33 and First Circuit Rule 33 govern the program.
Description of Program:
Civil Appeals Management Plan (CAMP): The Office of Staff Counsel conducts a conference, also referred to as mediation. Every civil case is eligible (with exceptions). The client is not required to appear but must be available by phone. Normally the client is not at the initial conference. Immigration cases are a significant portion of cases.

Relevant Rule(s):
FRAP 33, CR 5D
Web Site(s): www.ca3.uscourts.gov
www.ca3.uscourts.gov/medhome.htm

Contact Person: Joseph A. Torregrossa
Title: Director, Appellate Mediation Program

Description of Program:
The director manages the program, a separate unit of the court. Senior circuit and senior district judges are mediators for about 10% of the cases; the program director and staff mediation attorney mediate the rest. In some cases the mediation office may request pro bono counsel for the purpose of mediation only. In-person mediations are encouraged. Attorneys must submit to the mediator a confidential position paper before mediation. If there is no settlement, the director destroys all mediation files for the case. If there is a settlement, the mediation is not confidential unless parties agree otherwise.

Relevant Rule(s):
FRAP 33 and Third Circuit Rule 33.0.
U.S. COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE FOURTH CIRCUIT

Web Site(s): www.ca4.uscourts.gov/mediation.htm
                  www.ca4.uscourts.gov/mediation/istaff2.htm
Contact Person:  William T. Howell
Title:          Chief Mediator

Description of Program:
The Office of the Circuit Mediator reviews all eligible cases. The mediation conference is
carried out by one of the four circuit mediators. Most of mediation conferences are done
by phone. Clients are not required to participate in initial sessions; counsel are not
expected to have absolute settlement authority.

Relevant Rule(s):
FRAP 33 and Fourth Circuit Rule 33.
Description of Program:
Appellate Conference Program: The Senior Conference Attorney manages the program under the direction of the court. One of the judges has been appointed proctor for the conference program, but has no access to confidential information about conference proceedings. The five conference attorneys are all experienced lawyers who come from a wide variety of backgrounds. Parties can request inclusion. Most conferences take place by phone.

Relevant Rule(s):
Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure, Rule 33 and and the General Order Governing the Appellate Conference Program Effective March 27, 2000 (the “General Order”).
Web Site(s): www.ca6.uscourts.gov
Contact Person: Robert Rack
Title: Chief Circuit Mediator

Description of Program:
Mediation Program: The court selects mediators with training. The mediation office provides in-house training. Over 90% of conferences are held by phone. Attorneys must submit a Mediation Background Information form.

Relevant Rule(s):
FRAP Rule 33; Rule 33, Rules of the 6th Circuit
U.S. COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE SEVENTH CIRCUIT

Web Site(s): www.ca7.uscourts.gov
www.ca7.uscourts.gov/conf_aty/

Contact Person: Joel N. Shapiro
Title: Senior Conference Attorney

Description of Program:
Settlement Conference Program: The Settlement Conference Office schedules mediation conferences. Three full-time conference attorneys conduct the conferences. The program is supervised by the chief judge and a circuit executive. The court selects conference attorneys who are experienced and have been civil litigators in private practice. Cases are set for mediation based on the nature of the dispute; usually issues of policy or statutory construction are less likely to be mediated.

Relevant Rule(s):
FRAP 33 and Seventh Circuit Rule 33
Web Site(s):  www.ca8.uscourts.gov/index.html
            www.ca8.uscourts.gov/newrules/coa/IOP-complete.pdf (Go to
            subsection I.C.2, “Prehearing Conference Program”)
Contact Person:  John Martin
Title:  Director, Settlement Program

Description of Program:
Settlement Program: The director reviews cases and reports to the chief judge and the
court through the judge committee. The director is the sole mediator for the court at all
conferences, but a senior district judge may mediate cases (although this provision hasn’t
been used in years). Participation in the program is voluntary. The director looks for
cases where parties show an interest in settling.

Relevant Rule(s):
FRAP 33 and Eighth Circuit Rules 3B and 33A.
Description of Program:
Settlement Program: The chief circuit mediator manages the program and the circuit mediators and reports to the chief circuit judge. Circuit mediators review eligible cases and select those with settlement potential. In exceptional circumstances, the circuit mediator may refer a case to a judge or to another circuit mediator for mediation. An assessment conference is held to determine whether a mediation conference should be scheduled. Parties may have to submit mediation statements. If there is no settlement, the mediator works to develop a plan for disposition of the case.

Relevant Rule(s):
FRAP 33 and Ninth Circuit Rules 3-4, 15-2, and 33-1.
Description of Program:
The Circuit Mediation Office consists of three circuit mediators and one conference administrator. The chief circuit mediator reports to the chief judge. The circuit mediators are experienced attorneys with mediation skills. Settlement conferences (mediations) are held with a circuit mediator. 95% of the settlement conferences are conducted over the phone.

Relevant Rule(s):
FRAP 33 and Tenth Circuit Rule 33
Web Site(s): www.ca11.uscourts.gov/offices/mediation.php
Contact Person: Lowell L. Garrett
Title: Chief Circuit Mediator

Description of Program:
Appellate Mediation Program (The Kinnard Mediation Center): There are six circuit mediators who are court employees. The chief circuit mediator manages the mediation program. Upon agreement of all parties and at their expense, they may employ a private mediator, although this is not frequently used. The private mediator must follow the court’s mediation procedures. Attorneys are required to submit a Confidential Mediation Statement.

Relevant Rule(s):
FRAP 33 and Eleventh Circuit Rule 33-1.
U.S. COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE D.C. CIRCUIT

Web Site(s): www.cadc.uscourts.gov
Contact Person: Nancy Stanley
Title: Chief Mediator

Description of Program:
Appellate Mediation Program: The Legal Division of the Clerk’s Office, working with the director of dispute resolution in the Office of the Circuit Executive, refers cases to the program. The program is managed by the Director of Dispute Resolution who trains and oversees mediators and sometimes mediates or co-mediates. Mediators are volunteer attorneys who are selected and trained. The director assigns mediators based on experience, expertise, etc.
Web Site(s): www.fedcir.gov/index.html
                      www.fedcir.gov/#mediation

Description of Program:
The court’s Circuit Mediation Office consists of the circuit mediation officer (who administers the program) and support staff. The court maintains a roster of experienced mediators and accepts applications for mediators to be put on the roster. Private mediators must not be actively practicing law and are not paid. A three-judge committee oversees and monitors the program. Both parties must agree to participate in the program and parties can jointly request inclusion in the program.

Relevant Rule(s):
FRAP 33, CR 33
**U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF MAINE**

**Web Site(s):**
www.med.uscourts.gov  
www.med.uscourts.gov/locrules/LocalRules.pdf

**Description of Program:**
The Alternate Dispute Resolution Plan for the District of Maine is set forth in Local Rule 83.11. Pursuant to Title 28 Section 651(d), Magistrate Judge David Cohen has been designated to serve as the ADR Administrator for the District Court.

**Relevant Rule(s):**
LR 83.11

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**U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS**

**Web Site(s):**
www.mad.uscourts.gov/LocPubs/ADR.htm  
www.mad.uscourts.gov

**Contact Person:**
Rebecca Tyler

**Title:**
Program Coordinator

**Description of Program:**
It is the intention of the Court, through the adoption of Local Rule 16.4 and implementation of the Plan for Alternative Dispute Resolution in the District of Massachusetts (the Plan), to provide a broad program of court-annexed dispute resolution processes designed to provide quicker, less expensive, and generally more satisfying alternatives to continuing litigation. The Plan is designed to give litigants ready access to case evaluation and/or modern ADR settlement techniques. The program seeks to encourage a mutually satisfactory resolution to disputes in the early stages of litigation.

**Relevant Rule(s):**
LR 16.4
U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Web Site(s):  www.nhd.uscourts.gov/
              www.nhd.uscourts.gov/cp/mediation/default.asp

Description of Program:
The court sponsored ADR program commenced in 1999 and is governed by LR 53.1 and the Guidelines for Mediation Program. The program offers mediation and non-binding summary jury and summary bench trials. The parties can request court sponsored mediation in their Discovery Plan or by filing a Joint Mediation Statement. As of January 1, 2006, the parties can select their mediator of choice from the court's Mediation Panel List at their published market rate.

Relevant Rule(s):
LR 53.1 (Mediation Guidelines)

U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO

Web Site(s):  www.prd.uscourts.gov/USDCPR/home.htm
              www.prd.uscourts.gov/USDCPR/a_mediation.htm
Contact Person: Frances Ríos de Morán
Title: Clerk of Court

Description of Program:
The United States District Court for the District of Puerto Rico enacted a special local rule for mandatory, non-binding mediation in civil cases where it may be appropriate. New Local Rule 83.10 provides for court annexed-mediation. Civil cases may be ordered to submit to mandatory mediation at the discretion of the Court. The rule also allows for expert advice, provides for separate caucuses during the mediation processes and compensation for the mediator borne equally by both parties, and establishes a time frame for the conclusion of the mediation. The rule provides a process for the selection of a mediator from a Court’s pre-approved list of judicial officers, retired judges and attorneys.

Relevant Rule(s):
LR 311.11
U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF RHODE ISLAND

Web Site(s): www.rid.uscourts.gov/
            www.rid.uscourts.gov/adr.asp
Contact Person: Berry Mitchell
Title: ADR Administrator

Description of Program:
The District of Rhode Island provides a multi-option program consisting of arbitration, mediation and settlement conferencing with the court's magistrate judges. The court program is directed by a full-time ADR Administrator who also serves as a member of the court's ADR panel, providing services as an arbitrator and mediator.

Relevant Rule(s):
Local Rule 53 and the court's ADR Plan as Amended (2006).
Description of Program:
The Eastern District of New York sponsors five special procedures to facilitate resolution of disputes: Court-Annexed Arbitration, Mediation, Consensual Jury or Court Trial Before a United States Magistrate Judge, Settlement Conferences, and Special Masters. Court-Annexed Arbitration is mandatory for cases that fit the criteria and are valued at less than $150,000. However, the parties to any type of case may voluntarily refer their matter to any of the Court programs. All the Court-sponsored procedures except consent trials before Magistrate Judges are not binding. Of course, if the parties agree, all these procedures can be binding and appeals can be waived.

Relevant Rule(s):
LR 83.10, 83.11
U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

Web Site(s): www.nynd.uscourts.gov/
             www.nynd.uscourts.gov/adr.htm

Description of Program:
Available for tort, contract, or non-prisoner civil rights cases; Non-binding arbitration.

Relevant Rule(s):
LR 83.7 (Arb), 83.11 (Med), 83.12 (ENE)

U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

Web Site(s): www.nysd.uscourts.gov/

Description of Program:
A Staff Counsel administers the Court's mediation program. All civil cases other than social security, tax, prisoner civil rights and pro se matters are eligible for mediation. In all civil cases eligible for mediation each party shall consider the use of mediation and shall report to the assigned Judge at the initial case management conference whether the party believes mediation may facilitate the resolution of the lawsuit. The assigned Judge or Magistrate Judge may determine that a case is appropriate for mediation and may order that case to mediation with or without the consent of the parties.

Relevant Rule(s):
Local Rule 83.12
U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

Web Site(s):  www.nywd.uscourts.gov/
              www.nywd.uscourts.gov/adr/index.php
Contact Person:  Judge William Skretny

Description of Program:
Mediation is the primary ADR intervention utilized under the Court’s ADR Plan. In calendar year 2007, newly filed cases assigned to Chief Judge Richard J. Arcara and District Judge William M. Skretny are automatically referred to mediation. All other Judges, at their discretion, may refer their cases to ADR

Relevant Rule(s):
Local Rule of Civil Procedure 16.2

U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF VERMONT

Web Site(s):  www.vtd.uscourts.gov/

Description of Program:
The court offers early neutral evaluation

Relevant Rule(s):
Rule 16.3
U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE

Web Site(s): www.ded.uscourts.gov/ Index.htm

Description of Program:
The court conducts various alternative dispute resolution processes, including but not limited to judge-hosted settlement conferences, mediation, arbitration, early neutral evaluation, and summary trials (jury and nonjury).

U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

Web Site(s): www.njd.uscourts.gov/mediation.html
www.njd.uscourts.gov/arbitration.html
Contact Person: Madeline Cox Arleo
Title: Magistrate Judge

Description of Program:
Arbitration is governed by Local Rule 201.1. The Arbitration Program provides for a "compliance judge for arbitration." The duty of this judicial officer is to administer the arbitration program as a whole and to monitor the arbitration processes. The Clerk designates and processes for Compulsory Arbitration any civil action (subject to a few exceptions) pending before the Court where the relief sought consists only of money damages not in excess of $150,000 exclusive of interest and costs and any claim for punitive damages. Any district judge or magistrate judge may refer a civil action to mediation. This may be done without the consent of the parties. However, the Court encourages parties to confer among themselves and consent to mediation.

Relevant Rule(s):
Local Rule 201.1 (Arbitration), Local Rule 301.1 (Mediation)
U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

Web Site(s): www.paed.uscourts.gov/
              www.paed.uscourts.gov/us03015.asp

Description of Program:
Litigants in all civil actions, exempting only social security appeals, pro se prisoner civil rights actions, and petitions for habeas corpus, shall be required to consider the use of an alternative dispute resolution process at an appropriate stage in the litigation. ADR processes may include mediation and settlement conferences and such other ADR processes as the judge to whom the case is assigned may designate.

Relevant Rule(s):
Local Rule 53.3

U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

Web Site(s): www.pamd.uscourts.gov/docs/mediat.htm
            www.pamd.uscourts.gov/

Description of Program:
Local Rule 16.8 governs the mediation program in the Middle District of Pennsylvania. While the rule permits judges to order parties to mediation, it is anticipated that a majority of mediation sessions will be voluntary. When the Court determines that a case is appropriate for mediation, the judge and the parties will select a mediator from a list of certified mediators. A certified mediator must have been admitted to practice law for at least ten years and must have completed a two day training course on mediation techniques offered by the Court. The mediators have agreed to provide this service free of charge. After the selection of a mediator, the judge will then enter an order referring the case to mediation.

Relevant Rule(s):
Local Rule 16.8
U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

Web Site(s): www.pawd.uscourts.gov
coldfusion.pawd.uscourts.gov/adr/pages/adr.cfm

Description of Program:
Local rule 16.2 mandates the use of one of the following methods of ADR in all civil cases (except social security and those involving prisoners): mediation, early neutral evaluation and arbitration. Parties are required to determine which ADR method they are willing to employ and be prepared to discuss the choice at the case management conference, subject to the approval of the trial judges. This is a pilot program supervised by the Court’s ADR Implementation Committee.

Relevant Rule(s):
Local Rules 16.2 and 16.3

U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

Web Site(s): www.vid.uscourts.gov/

Description of Program:
The Magistrate Judge or Presiding Judge may order any contested civil matter or selected issue (with exceptions) to be referred to mediation. The mediator is compensated by the parties.

Relevant Rule(s):
Local Rule 3-2
U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND

Web Site(s): www.mdd.uscourts.gov

Description of Program:
The Court authorizes the use of all alternative dispute resolution processes in civil actions, including adversary proceedings in bankruptcy. The Magistrate Judges of the Court shall constitute the panel of neutrals made available by the Court for use by the parties. The provisions of 28 U.S.C. § 455 shall govern the disqualification of a Magistrate Judge from serving as a neutral. The parties may agree to the use of a neutral other than a Magistrate Judge.

Relevant Rule(s):
Rule 607

U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA

Web Site(s): www.nced.uscourts.gov/

Description of Program:
The court may at the request of the parties, order any action, or portion thereof, to be referred for a mediated settlement conference.

Relevant Rule(s):
Local Rule 101.3
U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA

Web Site(s):  www.ncmd.uscourts.gov/index.htm

Description of Program:
Selected civil cases will be referred to a mediated settlement conference.

Relevant Rule(s):
Local Rules 16.4 and 83.9

U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA

Web Site(s):
www.ncwd.uscourts.gov/
www.ncwd.uscourts.gov/Attorneys/Mediators.aspx

Description of Program:
All parties to civil actions are required to attend a Mediated Settlement Conference, unless otherwise ordered by the court. A mediated settlement conference is a pretrial, court-ordered (by local rule) conference of the parties to a civil action and their representatives conducted by a mediator.

Relevant Rule(s):
Local Rule 16.2
U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Web Site(s): www.scd.uscourts.gov
www.scd.uscourts.gov/Mediation/index.asp

Contact Person: Danny H. Mullis
Title: ADR Program Director

Description of Program:
All civil actions filed in the district are subject to mediation. Parties may, however, decline to participate in mediation by so notifying the court.

Relevant Rule(s):
LR 16.03-.12 (Mediation)

U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA

Web Site(s): www.vaed.uscourts.gov

Description of Program:
The court authorizes the use of ADR in all civil cases. ADR processes include mediation as well as settlement conferences. The parties may hire a mutually agreeable neutral. Judges and Magistrate judges are authorized to serve as judicial neutrals and may be appointed in cases where one or more parties cannot afford to pay a private neutral.

Relevant Rule(s):
Local Rule 83.6
U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA

Web Site(s): www.vawd.uscourts.gov/

Description of Program:
As of June 2007 the court had issued a proposed rule to authorize alternative dispute resolution to all parties in every civil case except those exempted by statute. Mediation is to be the common and preferred means of alternative dispute resolution.

U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA

Web Site(s): www.wvnd.uscourts.gov/

Description of Program:
The assigned judicial officer may mandate selected cases to mediation.

Relevant Rule(s):
Local Rule 16.06

U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA

Web Site(s): www.wvsd.uscourts.gov/

Description of Program:
The judicial officer may order mediation sua sponte or at the request of any party.

Relevant Rule(s):
Local Rule 16.6
U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

Web Site(s): www.laed.uscourts.gov
              www.laed.uscourts.gov/LocalRules/adr%20baton%20rouge.htm

Description of Program:
The Court authorizes the use of mediation, settlement conferences, early neutral evaluations, summary bench trials and summary jury trials as alternative dispute resolution processes in all civil actions, including adversary proceedings in bankruptcy.

Relevant Rule(s):
ADR Rule A-1 through F-9, Local Rule 16.3.1M, ADR Appendix

U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

Web Site(s): www.lamd.uscourts.gov

Description of Program:
The Court authorizes the use of mediation, settlement conferences, early neutral evaluations, summary bench trials and summary jury trials as alternative dispute resolution processes in all civil actions, including adversary proceedings in bankruptcy.

Relevant Rule(s):
Uniform Local Rules of the USDC for the Eastern, Western and Middle Districts, LR 16.3.1M, ADR Appendix
U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

Web Site(s): www.lawd.uscourts.gov

Description of Program:
The presiding judicial officer may determine at any time that a case would benefit from alternative dispute resolution and the judicial officer has the discretion to refer the case to private mediation, if the parties consent; order nonbinding mini-trial or nonbinding summary jury trial before a judicial officer with the parties’ consent; or employ other dispute resolution programs which may be designated for use in the District.

Relevant Rule(s):
LR 16.3.1E

U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI

Web Site(s): www.msnd.uscourts.gov/

Description of Program:
The ADR judges are responsible for recruiting and screening attorneys to serve as ADR neutrals. In addition, the ADR judges may from time to time solicit recommendations from state and federal bar associations, committees and organizations interested in ADR, regarding ADR programs and efficient methods of coordinating ADR resources in the state and federal courts.
Description of Program:
The ADR judges are responsible for recruiting and screening attorneys to serve as ADR neutrals. In addition, the ADR judges may from time to time solicit recommendations from state and federal bar associations, committees and organizations interested in ADR, regarding ADR programs and efficient methods of coordinating ADR resources in the state and federal courts.

Description of Program:
Applies to all civil cases except administrative law cases, habeas corpus and bankruptcy appeals

Relevant Rule(s):
Appendix H to the Local Rules "Court Annexed Mediation Plan"
U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

Web Site(s): www.txnd.uscourts.gov/
             www.txnd.uscourts.gov/publications/altdisp.html

Description of Program:
The Court may refer a case to ADR: 1) on the motion of any party, 2) on the agreement of the parties, or 3) on its own motion. Most of the time the judge will accept the parties agreement except in cases where the judge believes another ADR method or impartial third party is better suited to the case. The judge may also suggest or require other settlement procedures in addition to ADR. The ADR method most commonly used by the Court is mediation.

U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

Web Site(s): www.txuscourts.gov
             www.tx.uscourts.gov/adr

Description of Program:
The court approves the use of the following ADR methods: mediation, early neutral evaluation, summary jury trial, mini-trial, and non-binding arbitration.

Relevant Rule(s):
Local Rule 16.4
Web Site(s):  www.txwd.uscourts.gov/

Description of Program:
The Court recognizes the following ADR methods: early neutral evaluation, mediation, minitrial, moderated settlement conference, summary jury trial, and arbitration. The Court may approve any other ADR method the parties suggest or the Court believes is suited to the litigation.

Relevant Rule(s):
Local Rule CV-88
Upon motion of any party, or sua sponte, any judicial officer may require parties in civil cases to consider some form of alternative dispute resolution process, including but not limited to, mediation, early neutral evaluation, minitrial, or arbitration. Mediation may be conducted under the auspices of a private professional mediator or a judicial officer.

Relevant Rule(s):
Local Rule 16.2
SIXTH CIRCUIT

U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN

Web Site(s): www.mied.uscourts.gov/

Description of Program:
Michigan Court Rule 2.403, as amended from time to time, applies to civil cases that the court selects for mediation, subject to the provisions of this rule. Cases in which the United States is a party are not subject to mediation.

Relevant Rule(s):
Local Rule 16.3

U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN

Web Site(s): www.miwd.uscourts.gov
Contact Person: Mary Jo Schumacher
Title: ADR Administrator

Description of Program:
The ADR office is located in the Clerk's Office, with one fulltime employee who administers a variety of programs, including mediation, early neutral evaluation, case evaluation, arbitration, summary jury trials and magistrate-judge hosted settlement conferences.

Relevant Rule(s):
Local Rule 16
U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO

Web Site(s):  www.ohnd.uscourts.gov/
              www.ohnd.uscourts.gov/Attorney_Information/ADR_Info/adr_info.html

Description of Program:
The Court ADR program offers mediation, early neutral evaluation, summary jury trials, arbitration, and summary bench trials.

U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO

Web Site(s):  www.ohsd.uscourts.gov/
              www.ohsd.uscourts.gov/pdf/lccr.pdf

Description of Program:
The Court may at any stage of any case convene a separate conference to be attended by the trial attorney and each party to determine if further efforts at ADR are appropriate for the potential resolution of the dispute.

Relevant Rule(s):
Local Rule 16.3
U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE

Web Site(s): www.tned.uscourts.gov/med_arb.php
            www.tned.uscourts.gov/
Contact Person: C. Clifford Shirley
Title: Magistrate Judge

Description of Program:
Civil cases can be referred to mediation with or without consent of the parties. The local rule provides that the court may refer any civil action, including any adversary proceeding in bankruptcy, to arbitration under the provisions of the rule if the parties consent to such reference. Such reference may not be made, however, where the action is exempted from alternative dispute resolution pursuant to Local Rule 16.3(b); where the action is based on an alleged violation of a right secured by the Constitution of the United States; where jurisdiction is based in whole or in part on 28 U.S.C. § 1343, providing for original jurisdiction in federal court of any action to enforce civil rights; or where the relief sought consists of money damages in an amount greater than $150,000.00 exclusive of punitive damages, interest, costs, and attorney fees.

Relevant Rule(s):
Local Rule 16.3, et seq.

U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE

Web Site(s): www.tnmd.uscourts.gov/adr.html
Contact Person: Hon. Juliet Griffin
Title: Magistrate Judge

Description of Program:
The program provides for judicially conducted settlement conferences, mediation, early neutral evaluation, nonbinding arbitration, and Rule 68 offers of judgment. The Mediation, Early Neutral Evaluation and Nonbinding Arbitration proceedings are conducted by ADR Panel Members who are appointed by the Court and who conduct these ADR procedures under the supervision of the Court.
U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE

Web Site(s):
www.tnwd.uscourts.gov

Description of Program:
Voluntary mediation program. Parties split the cost of the mediator.
Description of Program:
The court has established mediation, summary jury trials and summary bench trials as the forms of ADR available to litigants. These ADR processes are available in all civil actions, including adversary proceedings and contested matters in Bankruptcy being heard by the District Court, except those cases listed in CDIL- LR 16.2 (A).

Relevant Rule(s):
Local Rule 16.4

Description of Program:
The court sponsors four major ADR processes: Mediation, Arbitration (non binding, or binding if all parties agree), Special Master, and Settlement Conferences (conducted by magistrate judge or district judge). At the initial pretrial conference, the court will enter an order to mediate as part of the case management order, unless the parties and the court agree that some other form of ADR will work better, or ADR would not be useful at this time. If ADR is not appropriate at the initial pretrial conference, the court will want to know when it will be appropriate.
U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

Web Site(s): www.ilsd.uscourts.gov/

Description of Program:
The parties shall use an early neutral evaluation in the form of a settlement conference in all civil cases except for the cases listed in SDIL-LR 26.1(a). The court may, in its discretion, set any civil case for summary jury trial or other alternative method of dispute resolution.

Relevant Rule(s):
Local Rule 16.3

U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA

Web Site(s): www.innd.uscourts.gov/
www.innd.uscourts.gov/mediation.shtml

Description of Program:
In every case in which a Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(f) report is submitted, the parties and the Court shall consider the use of an Alternative Dispute Resolution Process, such as mediation. A settlement conference conducted by a judicial officer is not an ADR Process.

Relevant Rule(s):
Local Rule 16.6(b)
SEVENTH CIRCUIT

U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA

Web Site(s): www.insd.uscourts.gov/

Description of Program:
With the agreement of the parties the court may refer a case to mediation.

U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN

Web Site(s): www.wied.uscourts.gov/

Description of Program:
Civil L.R. 16.4-7 controls ADR in the Eastern District of Wisconsin. Each judge must conduct an ADR evaluation conference during the early stages of case development to determine whether a civil case is appropriate for ADR. This can be done during a pretrial conference, scheduling conference, or independently. If the judge determines the case to be appropriate for ADR, he or she must encourage parties to participate in a Court-sponsored ADR process and he may order them to do so. Exempt from this procedure are administrative proceedings, proceedings to challenge criminal conviction or sentence, pro se prisoner litigation, actions by US to recover on student loans, cases where the only relief sought is to compel arbitration or uphold arbitration award, actions to enforce or quash an administrative summons or subpoena, proceedings ancillary to proceedings in other courts, and mortgage foreclosure actions in which an agency of the US is a secured party.
Web Site(s): www.wiwd.uscourts.gov/index.html

Description of Program:
Litigants are to consider the use of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) within thirty days of defendants' appearance. The court provides the services of its clerk to act as mediator in civil cases without additional compensation.

Relevant Rule(s):
Local Rule 16.6
U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS

Web Site(s): www.are.uscourts.gov/default.html

Description of Program:
The district’s United States Magistrate Judges are authorized to conduct settlement conferences in each civil case other than those cases specifically exempted.

Relevant Rule(s):
General Order no. 50

U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS

Web Site(s): www.arwd.uscourts.gov/

Description of Program:
Western District's US Magistrate Judges are authorized to conduct settlement conferences in each civil case, with certain exemptions

Relevant Rule(s):
General Order No. 32, Western District of Arkansas
U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF IOWA

Web Site(s): www.iand.uscourts.gov/

Description of Program:
The court authorizes the use of ADR in civil cases, including adversary proceedings in bankruptcy. The court’s primary ADR procedure is private mediation. Alternatively, the court may, either upon the request of a party or on its own initiative, schedule a court-sponsored settlement conference, in a mediation format, to be held by a federal judge or some other qualified neutral person. In appropriate cases, and with the consent of the parties, the court may facilitate other forms of ADR.

Relevant Rule(s):
Local Rule 16.3

U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF IOWA

Web Site(s): www.iasd.uscourts.gov/

Description of Program:
The court authorizes the use of ADR in civil cases, including adversary proceedings in bankruptcy. The court’s primary ADR procedure is private mediation. Alternatively, the court may, either upon the request of a party or on its own initiative, schedule a court-sponsored settlement conference, in a mediation format, to be held by a federal judge or some other qualified neutral person. In appropriate cases, and with the consent of the parties, the court may facilitate other forms of ADR.

Relevant Rule(s):
Local Rule 16.3
Description of Program:
Within 45 days prior to trial, each civil case not exempted by LR 26.1(b)(1) through (3) shall be set for a Mediated Settlement Conference before a Magistrate Judge. The Full-Time Magistrate Judges of the District Court constitute the panel of neutrals.

U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

Web Site(s): www.moed.uscourts.gov/
www.moed.uscourts.gov/adr/FactSheets.html

Contact Person: Sherry Compton
Title: ADR Coordinator

Description of Program:
The Court refers appropriate civil cases to mediation or early neutral evaluation. The Court may also refer cases to any ADR process that the parties may agree upon. The District Court’s alternative dispute resolution (ADR) program is administered by the Office of the Clerk of the Court. The ADR Coordinator is responsible for maintaining lists of certified neutrals, providing parties and assigned neutrals with proper notification of significant events in the ADR process, and generally overseeing a smooth running program. The ADR Coordinator will also monitor the progress of cases and collect pertinent statistical information.
Web Site(s): www.mow.uscourts.gov/
Contact Person: Kent Snapp
Title: Early Assessment Program Administrator

Description of Program:
Alternative dispute resolution proceedings are authorized for use in all civil actions, including adversary proceedings in bankruptcy. Alternative dispute resolution proceedings include any process or procedure, other than adjudication by a presiding judge, in which a neutral third party participates to assist in the resolution of issues in controversy through processes such as the Early Assessment Program adopted by the Court en banc, mediation or minitrial. In addition to participation in the Early Assessment Program which is mandated in certain divisions by the General Order of the Court en banc in all cases except those specifically exempted under the Order, litigants in all civil cases shall consider the use of an alternative dispute resolution process at an appropriate stage in the litigation. The presiding judge in any civil action may require the litigants to participate in an alternative dispute resolution process at any stage of the litigation deemed appropriate.

Relevant Rule(s):
Local Rule 16.5
U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA

Web Site(s): www.ned.uscourts.gov/
www.ned.uscourts.gov/mediation/medweb/
Contact Person: Kathy M. Griess
Title: Mediation Coordinator

Description of Program:
Any district, bankruptcy, or magistrate judge may by order refer a case to mediation when the judge finds that the nature of the case and the amount in controversy, together with the information available regarding the possibility of settlement make resolution of the case by mediation a practical possibility within the purposes noted above. Cases may be referred for mediation to mediators formally approved by this court, or to mediators not formally approved by this court, or to private mediation services, or through mediation centers affiliated with the Nebraska Office of Dispute Resolution.

U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF NORTH DAKOTA

Web Site(s): www.ndd.uscourts.gov/

Description of Program:
The court authorizes the use of ADR in civil cases, including adversary proceedings in bankruptcy. Cases which are limited to review of an administrative decision on an existing record or in which one or more parties are appearing pro se are excluded from this authorization, except upon specific designation by a judicial officer. The primary form of ADR offered by the court is mediation in court-sponsored settlement conferences held by judicial officers. The court will not offer arbitration as a court-sponsored ADR process, but in appropriate cases, with the consent of the parties, the court will facilitate other forms of ADR process, such as early neutral evaluation, mini-trial and summary jury trial before a judicial officer. Additionally, the court encourages but does not require the parties to arrange and participate in ADR in the private market as an alternative to court-sponsored ADR.

Relevant Rule(s):
Local Rule 16.2
U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH DAKOTA

Web Site(s): www.sdd.uscourts.gov/

Description of Program:
The court encourages parties to use alternative dispute resolution procedures to try to settle their cases without a trial. Magistrate judges are available as mediators to facilitate alternative dispute resolution procedures.

Relevant Rule(s):
Local Rule 53.1
Description of Program:
The court promotes the use of mediation. Other ADR processes may be used where agreed by the parties, including early neutral evaluation, arbitration, settlement conference, summary jury trial, and mini trial. The court does not make its personnel or facilities available for summary jury trials or mini trials and will not summon jurors to participate in those proceedings. At an early stage in every case, the parties must actively consider mediation or other ADR processes to facilitate less costly resolution of the litigation.

Relevant Rule(s):
Local Rule 16.2
Description of Program:
The court encourages litigants to take advantage of a wide variety of alternative dispute resolution methods. These methods may include, but are not limited to, mediation, negotiation, early neutral evaluation and settlement facilitation. The specific method or methods employed is determined by the Neutral and the parties. Local Rule 16-271 applies to all civil actions pending before any District Judge or Magistrate Judge in the District except specified actions.

Relevant Rule(s):
Local Rule 16-271
NINTH CIRCUIT

U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

Web Site(s): www.adr.cand.uscourts.gov/
Contact Person: Howard A. Herman
Title: Director of ADR Programs

Description of Program:
The Court offers Arbitration (binding and non-binding), Early Neutral Evaluation, Mediation and Settlement Conferences. Neutrals are appointed by the Court ADR staff.

U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

Web Site(s): www.casd.uscourts.gov/

Description of Program:
A settlement conference is required in a civil case. A district or magistrate judge may order a non-binding mini-trial or summary jury trial in all cases the judge finds, after a hearing with an opportunity to be heard, that (1) the potential judgment does not exceed $250,000 and (2) that the use of this procedure will probably resolve the case. In determining whether to order a mini-trial or summary jury trial, the judge shall also consider the costs of the procedure and the costs that may be saved by ordering such a non-binding trial. A district or magistrate judge may also order a non-binding mini-trial or summary jury trial in all other cases where the parties have consented to such procedure.

U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF GUAM

Web Site(s): www.gud.uscourts.gov/

Description of Program:
Any party may request a settlement conference.
U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF HAWAII

Web Site(s): www.hid.uscourts.gov/

Description of Program:
The court may order parties in a civil action to mediation or the parties may stipulate to mediation. The court maintains a roster of approved mediators.

Relevant Rule(s):
Local Rule 88.1

U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF IDAHO

Web Site(s): www.id.uscourts.gov
www.id.uscourts.gov/adr_desc.htm
Contact Person: Denise Asper
Title: ADR Administrator

Description of Program:
There are three types of ADR used in the United States District Court for the District of Idaho: arbitration, mediation, and settlement conferences.

Relevant Rule(s):
Local Rule 16.5
U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Web Site(s): www.nmid.uscourts.gov

Description of Program:
Any civil case triable to a jury may be assigned for summary jury trial.

Relevant Rule(s):
Local Rule 16.11CJ

U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF MONTANA

Web Site(s): www.mtd.uscourts.gov/staff.htm
www.mtd.uscourts.gov/adr.htm

Description of Program:
Except for certain cases exempted by L.R. 16.6(A)(4), all parties in civil actions must consider early neutral evaluation. Any of the parties may jointly request neutral evaluation of any or all claims or defenses at any time.

Relevant Rule(s):
Local Rule 16.6

U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEVADA

Web Site(s): www.nvd.uscourts.gov/

Description of Program:
The court may, in its discretion and at any time, set any appropriate civil case for settlement conference, summary jury trial, or other alternative method of dispute resolution. All employment discrimination actions must undergo early neutral evaluation.

Relevant Rule(s):
Local Rule 16.5 and 16.6
U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF OREGON

Web Site(s): www.ord.uscourts.gov/

Description of Program:
Except for specifically exempted cases, all civil cases filed in the district court are eligible for ADR. Within 120 days from the initiation of a lawsuit, counsel for all parties (after conferring with their clients) must confer with all other attorneys of record and all unrepresented parties, to discuss whether the case would benefit from any private or court sponsored ADR option. ADR options include private ADR, a court sponsored volunteer mediator, or a settlement judge.

Relevant Rule(s):
Local Rule 16.4

U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

Web Site(s): www.waed.uscourts.gov

Description of Program:
The parties in civil actions are required to consider alternative dispute resolution and be prepared to discuss ADR at the time of the first scheduling conference. Forms of ADR include but are not limited to mediation, summary jury trials, early neutral evaluation, arbitration and mini trials. The parties may plan to privately select and reimburse third party neutrals or request a court-annexed program (the court would refer the case to a volunteer third-party neutral or a magistrate judge).

Relevant Rule(s):
Local Rule 16.2
Web Site(s): www.wawd.uscourts.gov/

Description of Program:
The alternative dispute resolution program is administered by the clerk of the court with the cooperation and assistance of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee of the Federal Bar Association of the Western District of Washington. All civil cases are eligible for ADR, including adversary proceedings in bankruptcy, except prisoner petitions, suits involving entitlement to social security benefits, and suits to recover student loan defaults or deficiencies. The court may exempt specific cases from this rule if and to the extent the court finds that use of ADR procedures in the action would not be appropriate. ADR processes available include mediation, arbitration, judicial settlement conference, and any other ADR process that may advance the objectives of Local Rule 39.1, including early neutral evaluation and summary trial.

Relevant Rule(s):
Local Rule 39.1
U.S. COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLORADO

Web Site(s): www.cod.uscourts.gov/

Description of Program:
At any stage of the proceedings, on a district judge's initiative or pursuant to motion or stipulation of counsel or the pro se parties, a district judge may direct the parties to a suit to engage in an early settlement conference or other alternative dispute resolution proceeding.

Relevant Rule(s):
Local Rule 16.6

U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF KANSAS

Web Site(s): www.ksd.uscourts.gov
               www.ksd.uscourts.gov/attorney/adr

Email Address: adr@ksd.uscourts.gov

Description of Program:
Mediation is considered in all civil cases for which a scheduling conference is held. The court’s primary ADR procedure is mediation facilitated by a private mediator chosen by the parties.

Relevant Rule(s):
Rule 16.3
U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW MEXICO

Web Site(s): www.nmcourt.fed.us/web/index.htm

Description of Program:
Settlement conference required for all civil cases except for those specifically exempted.

Relevant Rule(s):
Local Rule 16

U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA

Web Site(s): www.oked.uscourts.gov/home.htm

Description of Program:
All civil cases set for the trial docket are referred to a settlement conference. The court may set any civil case for summary jury trial, executive summary jury trial (where chief executive officers of the parties serve as part of a three judge panel), mediation, arbitration, or any other method.

Relevant Rule(s):
Local Rule 16.2
U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA

Web Site(s): www.oknd.uscourts.gov/
www.oknd.uscourts.gov/okndpublic/attyorne.nsf/e1df95432b8fe773862567ca00573ae3/d778ced46ac6b508862571020b0075080d/$FILE/CV-04.pdf

Description of Program:
The settlement conference is the most commonly used ADR procedure offered by the Court. Non-court-sponsored alternative methods of dispute resolution are available, usually at nominal charge.

Relevant Rule(s):
Local Rule 16.3

U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA

Web Site(s): www.okwd.uscourts.gov

Description of Program:
Program offers mediation and judge hosted settlement conferences.

Relevant Rule(s):
Local Court Rules of the United States District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma, LCv16.3 Alternative Dispute Resolution; Supplement to the Local Civil Rules, The Plan for Alternative Dispute Resolution and Settlement Procedures and Rules of Practice: LCv16.3 Supp. 1.1 et seq.
10th Circuit:
U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF UTAH

Web Site(s): www.utd.uscourts.gov
              www.utd.uscourts.gov/documents/adrpage.html
Contact Person: Michelle Roybal
Title: ADR Administrator

Description of Program:
Under local rule 16-2 and the ADR Plan, the District of Utah offers two less-formal dispute resolution methods: arbitration and mediation. The District offers these ADR processes at a small fee to the parties, and referral to ADR is made on a voluntary basis unless the presiding judge otherwise orders. Civil cases filed in the District, except those excluded under Local 16-2(c), may opt either for arbitration or mediation. Bankruptcy adversary proceedings, appeals from Bankruptcy Court, and reviews of judgments from administrative law forums qualify only for mediation.

Relevant Rule(s):
Local Rule 16.2

U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF WYOMING

Web Site(s): www.wyd.uscourts.gov/

Description of Program:
ADR procedures include settlement conferences, summary jury trials, court annexed arbitration, early neutral evaluation, and other dispute resolution techniques. The parties file the Stipulated Agreement and Motion for Referral to ADR with the Clerk of Court indicating, therein, the ADR procedure selected and the neutral selected to conduct the ADR procedure. The Clerk of Court forwards a copy of the Stipulated Motion and Agreement for Referral to the ADR Administrator for processing.

Relevant Rule(s):
Rule 16.3
ELEVENTH CIRCUIT

U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA

Web Site(s): www.almd.uscourts.gov/

Description of Program:
A judge of the court may, in a scheduling order or by separate order, direct that the litigants engage in one or more ADR processes. The court has established a voluntary mediation program.

U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ALABAMA

Web Site(s): www.alnd.uscourts.gov/
www.alnd.uscourts.gov/Local/adr_plan.htm

Description of Program:
A judge of the court may, in a scheduling order or by separate order, direct that the litigants engage in one or more procedures for alternative dispute resolution as authorized and provided in the ADR plan adopted by the court. The court has established a Federal Court Panel of Neutrals (Panel) from which the neutrals for cases referred by the court to Mediation or Med/Arb will be selected.

Relevant Rule(s):
Local Rule 16.1
U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ALABAMA

Web Site(s): www.alsd.uscourts.gov

Description of Program:
The court may order the parties to mediation if the parties do not agree to do so.

Relevant Rule(s):
Local Rule 16.6

U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

Web Site(s): www.flmd.uscourts.gov

Description of Program:
The local rules allow for arbitration and mediation of civil cases. Court appointed mediators have been certified by the Chief Judge and each mediator has already completed the 40 hour Florida Circuit Court Mediation certification program.

Relevant Rule(s):
Local Rules 8 and 9
U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

Web Site(s): www.flnd.uscourts.gov

Description of Program:
Any person who is certified and remains in good standing as a circuit court mediator under the rules adopted by the Supreme Court of Florida is qualified to serve as a mediator in the district. By mutual agreement and with court approval, any other person may be a mediator in a specific case. All litigants in civil cases not exempt under N.D. Fla. Loc. R. 26.1 shall consider the use of mediation as an alternative dispute resolution process at an appropriate stage in the litigation. Any pending civil case may be referred to mediation by the presiding judicial officer at such time as the judicial officer may determine to be in the interests of justice. The parties may request the court to submit any pending civil case to mediation at any time.

Relevant Rule(s):
Local Rule 16.3

U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

Web Site(s): www.flsd.uscourts.gov

Description of Program:
The Local Rules provide for court-annexed mediation. In every civil case except those listed in Local Rule 16.2.C., the court directs the parties to mediation. The Clerk maintains a list of certified mediators. The cost of mediation is shared equally by the parties unless the court orders otherwise.

Relevant Rule(s):
Local Rule 16.2
ELEVENTH CIRCUIT

U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF GEORGIA

Web Site(s): www.gamd.uscourts.gov

Description of Program:
All civil cases except for those identified shall be referred to a court arbitration process. Parties have an option to opt-out. The court encourages private mediation at the expense of the parties.

Relevant Rule(s):
Local Rule 16.2

U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA

Web Site(s): www.gand.uscourts.gov/

Description of Program:
At various stages in the litigation of a civil case, litigants and their counsel are required to consider whether utilization of an alternative dispute resolution process is desirable or appropriate in their particular case. A judge may authorize use of an ADR process that is facilitated by individuals or programs not connected with the court or, alternatively, the judge may authorize utilization of an ADR process offered through the court’s court-annexed ADR program. A judge may in his or her discretion refer any civil case to a non-binding ADR process, e.g. early neutral evaluation, mediation, or non-binding arbitration. Upon the consent of the parties, the judge may refer any civil case to binding arbitration, binding summary jury trial or bench trial, or other binding ADR process.

Relevant Rule(s):
Local Rule 16.7
U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA

Web Site(s):  www.gasd.uscourts.gov/
             www.gas.uscourts.gov/lr/NoticeofAlternativeDisputeResolution.pdf

Description of Program:
At the parties request, the court may order the case to mediation or to binding or non-binding arbitration.

Relevant Rule(s):
LR 3.3
Civil litigants are required to meet and confer. One topic at the meeting is whether ADR might be useful in settling the case. The Mediation Program was created in 1989 to give litigants an opportunity to discuss -- with a trained, neutral third person -- the possibility of settling their dispute consensually.

Relevant Rule(s):
Local Rule 16.3, Appendices B and C of the Local Rules