



## From the Director

### Spring 2017 E-News

#### A Personal Note From the Director... One More Issue!

I get to write one more e-news before I leave the Center and head out for the summer! Thank you for 23 happy years and all your wonderful faces. No kidding! I will not forget the Roadshows, the lunches, the trainings with Troy (and Sally), the judges, ADR Commission meetings, the ADR Section of the Bar, Contract Review Board, Bar Christmases, my colleagues at the ASB, the Supreme Court staff and AOC. Plus our website and e-news guru, Margaret Meier de Cox. Fantastico!



The Center for Dispute Resolution is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit. Special thanks to the Board: Bill Coleman, Charlie Boyd, outgoing member Noah Funderburg, and incoming member, Harold Stephens.

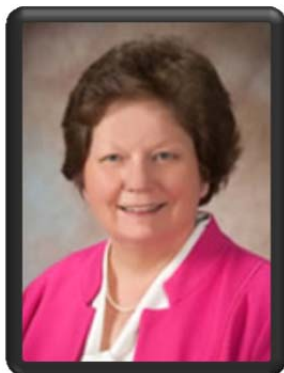
Thank you to the Supreme Court of Alabama for our basic funding since 1996, and to the Bar for our offices; the Center has truly been a Bench-Bar project since we started in 1994.

Thank you specially, Bill Coleman, for choosing me as the Center's founding director. It was a great match and such a pleasure!

*Judy*

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## Center Welcomes Eileen Harris



We are in May already. Patsy is BACK! We are making sure your 2017 profiles at the website are correct, entering data into the database so we are prepared to send copy to the printer, reviewing surveys and gathering statistics, and finishing quarterly reports.

Please help us be as accurate as possible by reviewing the materials we send you with your roster certificate, and letting us know of any changes we need to make. If you have not renewed your roster membership, please call us so we can assist you.

As I mentioned at the end of last year, this spring brings change to the Center leadership. I would like to introduce you to my successor, Eileen Harris, the

new Executive Director of the Alabama Center for Dispute Resolution as of June 1. I hope you will welcome her warmly.

Eileen Harris is an attorney and a mediator. She was admitted to practice in Alabama in 1999. Ms. Harris earned her B.A. degree in Political Science from Valdosta State and her M.S. degree in Operations Management from the University of Arkansas. She graduated from the Thomas Goode Jones School of Law in 1998. She comes to the Alabama Center for Dispute resolution with extensive management and leadership experience gained while serving in the military and from working in leadership positions for two non-profit organizations.

## Better Business Bureau Seeking Arbitrators

The Better Business Bureau Serving Central and South Alabama, a non-profit organization, is seeking attorneys to serve as volunteer arbitrators in the resolution of consumer/business disputes in this area. This is a great opportunity for the right attorney at your firm to devote their Arbitration and Mediation skills to helping the community and marketplace, and I hope you will pass this message along.



Openings are available for arbitrators to assist with the two kinds of out-of-court arbitration cases that are heard using attorneys as neutral thirds parties:

- Binding arbitration disputes between consumers and local businesses
- BBB AUTO LINE, which works to resolve new vehicle warranty disputes between customers and participating automobile manufacturers

The goal of arbitration is to resolve business/consumer disputes quickly and economically as an alternative to the court system. Accordingly, arbitrating is a professional activity requiring excellent written, verbal, listening, fact-finding and logical reasoning skills.

A two-week training program will take place in June. The training is conducted through a series of conference calls and web-based learning modules, and includes readings and exercises prior to each class. The sessions cover the Lemon Law, specifics of the BBB AUTO LINE program and general arbitration skills. Candidates are required to pass an online written assessment for certification.

There is no cost for training or materials. Arbitrators receive a \$100.00 honorarium per AUTO LINE case, but binding arbitration cases between consumers and local businesses are pro bono. You can expect to be asked to participate in three to four hearings per year. Candidates who successfully complete the training will be eligible to hear both AUTO LINE and binding arbitration cases.

You can learn more about the program and training, and find the application form at <https://www.bbb.org/bbb-dispute-handling-and-resolution/become-an-arbitrator>.

For more information, contact Pete Pfluger, Arbitration and Mediation Coordinator at 205-558-2233 or [ppfluger@csal.bbb.org](mailto:ppfluger@csal.bbb.org).

## Training Opportunities

### 10th Annual Arbitration Training Institute

American Bar Association, 321 N Clark St Chicago, IL 60654-7598

June 15-16, 2017

This two-day training will be presented by a panel of nationally recognized arbitrators and arbitration advocates. Let the panel of experts walk you through the arbitration process from start to finish. This limited capacity training will provide you with a unique learning environment and industry contacts you will sustain throughout your career. This program is eligible for ACE credit (for AAA Arbitrators).

#### Registration Rates:

ABA DR / Litigation / L&E / Construction Section Members - \$625, ABA Members - \$725, Non-ABA Members - \$825, Law Student Rate - \$300 . The deadline to register online is Friday, June 9, 2017. On-site registration will be available.

### 2017 In-State Mediation Training

(all approved for CLE and roster registration as long as applicant meets other requirements)

Dates	Training Topic	Location
<b>General Civil (20 hours CLE)</b>	June 8-10	Birmingham
	September 7-9	
	December 7-9	
<b>Divorce/Family Mediation (40 hours CLE)</b>	August 18-22	Birmingham
	November 2-6	
<b>Domestic Violence Mediation (14 hours CLE)</b>	May 22-23	Birmingham
	November 16-17	
<b>Advanced Mediation</b>	July 17	Mobile
	July 18	Dothan
	July 19	Montgomery
	July 20	Birmingham
	July 21	Huntsville

These classes have been reviewed by participants, and with a predominance of 5 Stars!

For more information go to [www.mediationmedia.com](http://www.mediationmedia.com) or contact Troy Smith, JD at 800 ADR FIRM

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## FYI

Call the Center

Please feel you can call us at any time for  
business resources, speakers, and information.

See what we have provided at [www.alabamaadr.org](http://www.alabamaadr.org).

#### ADR Career Resources

[http://www.americanbar.org/groups/dispute\\_resolution/resources/career.html](http://www.americanbar.org/groups/dispute_resolution/resources/career.html)

## Parents are Forever Family Mediation Program Statistics

### Court Year October 2015 –September 2016

- 170 mediations, 117 with agreements
- Average Family income: \$39,433;
- Children benefited: 262
- Pro bono time given by mediators: 189.30 hours;

### Judges in twenty seven counties sent cases:

Jefferson, Coffee, Geneva, Lawrence, Walker, Lauderdale, Dallas, Tuscaloosa, Lee, Morgan, Houston, Dale, Autauga, Elmore, Morgan, Russell, St. Clair, Tallapoosa, Franklin, Butler, Montgomery, Pike, Madison, Bibb, Lawrence, Baldwin, Chilton.

### October 2016-December 2016

- 23 mediations, 18 agreements
- Average Family Income: \$45,360
- Children benefited: 40
- Pro bono time given by mediators: 37.55 hours

### January-March 2017

- 22 mediation, 14 agreements
- Average family income: \$40.808
- Children benefited: 32
- Pro bono time given by mediators: 31 hours

[More about the Family Mediation Program](#)

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## Alabama Neutral Activities

### All about Mediation, Arbitration, Private Judging

#### *Have you been speaking or writing?*

#### **Presentations**

We would like to hear about roster members who have given recent presentations on mediation, arbitration or private judging. Please send information on the presentation topic and the audience.

#### **Articles**

We would also like to hear about roster members who have written articles on mediation, arbitration or private judging for newspapers, other periodicals, or the law review. Please send information on the topic and the media.



## Recognition Ceremonies for Executive Director Judy Keegan



Honorable Scott Donaldson, Alabama Court of Civil appeals presents outgoing Executive Director Judy Keegan with a Certificate of Appreciation for her years of service for the Center.

May 19, 2017, Alabama Supreme Court Commission on Dispute Resolution meeting

Harold Stephens, Chair of the Alabama Supreme Court Commission on Dispute Resolution, filling in for Justice Murdock, presents outgoing Executive Director Judy Keegan with a Certificate of Appreciation for her years of service for the Supreme Court of Alabama.

May 19, 2017  
Alabama Supreme Court Commission on Dispute Resolution meeting



### FYI

**Judy Keegan, Executive Director, retires to pursue other adventures.**

If you would like to contact her after May 31st, you may contact her by email at [judithmkeegan@gmail.com](mailto:judithmkeegan@gmail.com) or via Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/judith.keegan.54>

**JULY**  
**Alabama Bar's Annual Meeting**  
**Fairhope, Alabama**



**Our Session:**

**Alabama Dispute Resolution: How Are We Using It?**

Break Out Session 9:45 to 10:45 Thursday, July 13

Moderator: Harold Stephens

Panelists: James Walter, Jr., Elizabeth Smithart, Phillip Adams, Melanie Atha

Sponsored by the Dispute Resolution Section of the Alabama State Bar and the Alabama Center for Dispute Resolution

*Be sure to visit our table at the Annual Meeting!*

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**Alabama Center for Alternative Dispute Resolution goes Social!**

Did you know we're on Facebook? Visit our page at <https://www.facebook.com/alabamaadr> and Like us to keep up with the latest news and happenings at the Alabama Center For Dispute Resolution!

We're also on Twitter! While we don't have a lot of "fast-breaking news," we have a Twitter account to keep you up on the latest. Follow us @AlabamaADR at <https://twitter.com/alabamaadr>

And now we have a YouTube channel! We are loading videos and pointing to reference videos related to our favorite topics... mediation, negotiation, arbitration, restorative justice, etc. [Visit Alabama Alternative Dispute Resolution Center on YouTube.](#)

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