



ASSOCIATION OF ATTORNEY-MEDIATORS

New Applicant Information

Purpose

To promote and support qualified attorney-mediators committed to achieve the prompt, fair and cost effective resolution of disputes through court-annexed mediation.

Goals

- To promote the highest ethical standards, qualifications and training standards for attorney-mediators.
- To develop contextually consistent standardized forms and rules for use in connection with court-annexed mediations.
- To improve the effectiveness, consistency and skills of attorney-mediators.
- To expand the body of knowledge, awareness and expertise about the art of mediation.
- To provide availability of adequate professional liability insurance coverage for attorney-mediators at a reasonable cost.

Qualifications for Initial Membership

- Applicant must be licensed [and authorized to practice law] for a minimum of eight (8) years, (5) years for associate membership and (2) year associate with special requirements. Applicants in all categories must be in good standing with a local jurisdictional authority (i.e., state bar).
- Applicant must provide to AAM at least three (3) attorney references on the form provided by AAM, from lawyers in his/her community with whom the applicant is not presently associated.
- Applicant must be willing to participate in any grievance or feedback procedures adopted by AAM and to observe all ethical standards adopted by AAM.
- Applicant must have completed a training program approved by AAM. (See Below.)

Qualifications for Continuing Membership in AAM

- Conducting five (5) formal mediations or a combination of mediations and observations per calendar year, including Settlement Week mediations and Pro Bono mediations for each calendar year **following the third anniversary of the member's admission into AAM.**
- Completing five (5) MCLE hours of ADR per calendar year (self-study hours will be permitted).
- Completing one (1) mediation observation per calendar year with an AAM member or viewing the AAM video. Active co-mediators qualify to fulfill this requirement. Renewing members reporting 100 or more total mediations conducted, and renewing members who have less than 100 total mediations but who are reporting 25 or more mediations conducted in the preceding calendar year, are exempt from this observation requirement.
- Making oneself available for at least two (2) Pro Bono mediations per year at the request of a Court.
- Complying with all reporting requirements established by AAM.
- Paying all AAM dues and special assessments, if any, by due date of each year.
- Complying with all ethical standards promulgated by AAM.
- Participating in any grievance/feedback procedures established by AAM.
- Continuing to be licensed and authorized to practice law with a local jurisdictional authority (i.e. State Bar).

Training Requirements for AAM Membership

The basic training that is required must be taught by attorneys and satisfy AAM's minimum requirements. Applicant must have 40 hours of basic mediation training, or meet those mediator training or mediator credentialing requirements for each of the states in which the applicant practices law, and must be in good standing with those requirements. Applicant must provide proof that he/she has satisfactorily completed a mediation training program as referenced below, and that such training program fully complies with AAM's requirements. Each application is evaluated on its own merits.

We must have the following information to approve applicant's training:

- Course curriculum & syllabus.
- Biographical information of the instructors furnished to course registrants (must have experience and background acceptable to AAM).
- Written certification that the course was taken and completed and evidence that the course satisfies all requirements of the laws of the state where the applicant practices, the state and local bar associations and local rules of court (if any) applicable to the jurisdiction where the mediation training is provided and applicant intends to practice mediation.

The mediation course must include the following:

- A basic mediation course of at least 24 hours, but meeting the training requirements in applicant's practice area covering all the basics in one course. At least 50% of the instructors actively teaching the program must be attorneys.
- Instruction on the theory and mechanics of the caucus method of mediation, focusing on a risk analysis and options generations approach to dispute resolution.
- Instructions in local, State and Federal mediation rules, regulations, legislation and requirements applicable to the mediation of litigation.
- Instruction in mediation ethics (at least one hour).