ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION COMMISSION

Continuing Mediation Education, Continuing Legal Education and Training Programs Catalog

2024

“Supporting Courts, Ensuring Justice”
Each year, the Commission sponsors a series of courses that serve as the building blocks of mediation training. While anyone may take the courses, they are specifically designed to satisfy the training requirements for mediator certification. We are fortunate to work with nationally recognized faculty and to have a staff that strives to create a learning environment that is second to none.

For mediators who are certified, we offer a variety of continuing education opportunities. On odd-numbered years, we offer continuing mediation education (CME) programs in locations throughout the state. These regional programs utilize local mediators, attorneys and other professionals as faculty to present on topics tailored to meet the needs of that area, as well as the state as a whole. On even-numbered years, we offer a statewide conference in which national speakers are invited to our state to share their experience and expertise.

While one of the Commission’s goals is to serve the needs of certified mediators with high-quality education programs, it is also our goal to educate attorneys, judges and the general public on the uses and benefits of mediation. To that end, anyone is welcome to attend our continuing education programs or training courses.

I hope that you find this catalog helpful, and that you are able to attend one of these engaging educational programs.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Anderson
Chair
Arkansas Alternative Dispute Resolution Commission
2024 PROGRAM DATES

JANUARY 18, 2024 – LITTLE ROCK
ACCESS AND VISITATION MEDIATION PROGRAM ORIENTATION SESSION

JANUARY 25, 2024 – LITTLE ROCK
ADR COMMISSION MEETING

APRIL 11, 2024 – LITTLE ROCK
ADR COMMISSION MEETING

APRIL 19, 2024 – LITTLE ROCK
ADR CONFERENCE

JULY 15-19, 2024 – LITTLE ROCK
40-HOUR CIVIL TRIAL COURT MEDIATION TRAINING

JULY 25, 2024 – LITTLE ROCK
ADR COMMISSION MEETING

AUGUST 15, 2024 – LITTLE ROCK
ACCESS AND VISITATION MEDIATION PROGRAM ORIENTATION SESSION

SEPTEMBER 13, 2024 – LITTLE ROCK
ACCESS AND VISITATION ADVANCED CME PROGRAM

SEPTEMBER 23-27, 2024 – LITTLE ROCK
40-HOUR FAMILY MEDIATION TRAINING

OCTOBER 24, 2024 – LITTLE ROCK
ADR COMMISSION MEETING
Mediators eligible to mediate cases from the Arkansas Circuit Courts for compensation must be certified by the Arkansas ADR Commission. The Commission has established standards for mediator certification, professional conduct and discipline with which applicants must comply in order to be included on the Roster of Certified Mediators. The Roster is provided to every circuit court judge in the state, posted to our website and made available to anyone who contacts our office seeking a mediator.

There are four categories of certification: civil, probate, domestic relations and juvenile. The education, training and practical experience requirements vary for each of the categories, and the specifics are set out in the Requirements for the Certification of Mediators for Circuit Courts.

Certified mediators are required to adhere to ethical standards and are subject to a disciplinary process. The Commission has no authority over mediators who are not certified.

In order to maintain good standing, certified mediators must complete six hours of continuing mediation education (CME) each reporting period. The reporting period begins on September 1 and ends on August 31. On even years, the Commission hosts a statewide ADR conference. On odd years, the Commission conducts regional CME programs. These regional programs are held in Central, Southeast, Southwest, Northeast and Northwest Arkansas.

*Duplicate attendance of regionals is not available for CME credit.*

Additionally, programs conducted by other organizations and individuals may be approved by the Commission for CME credit. The application for CME course approval can be found on the Commission’s website at: arcourts.gov/administration/adr/training.
## Requirements for the Certification of Mediators for Circuit Court Overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Civil</th>
<th>Probate</th>
<th>Domestic Relations</th>
<th>Juvenile</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Education</strong></td>
<td>Juris Doctorate or equivalent; or Master’s Degree or higher</td>
<td>Juris Doctorate or equivalent; or Master’s Degree or higher; or Bachelor’s Degree with two years work experience in family and marriage issues*</td>
<td>Juris Doctorate or equivalent; or Master’s Degree or higher; or Bachelor’s Degree with two years work experience in family and juvenile issues*</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Training</strong></td>
<td>40-Hour Mediation Training</td>
<td>If the applicant meets the qualifications for certification in the civil or domestic relations category, they qualify for certification in the probate category</td>
<td>40-Hour Basic Mediation Training and 20-Hour Family Mediation Training or 40-Hour Family Mediation Training</td>
<td>40-Hour Mediation Training and 20-Hour Family Mediation Training and Juvenile Court Overview for Mediators or 40-Hour Family Mediation Training; and Juvenile Court Overview for Mediators</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Practical Experience</strong></td>
<td>Observe, co-mediate or mediate two cases from the civil division of the Arkansas Circuit Court</td>
<td>Observe, co-mediate or mediate two cases from the domestic relations division of the Arkansas Circuit Court</td>
<td>Complete the Juvenile Mediation Mentor Program (contact the Commission Coordinator)</td>
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*Qualifying work experience is determined by the ADR Commission.

The Requirements for the Certification of Mediators for Circuit Courts, as well as all other rules pertaining to certified mediators, and the application for certification are available online at [arcourts.gov/administration/adr](http://arcourts.gov/administration/adr).
2024 ARKANSAS ADR CONFERENCE AGENDA

8:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.  Welcome, Announcements and Introductions

8:45 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.  Artificial Intelligence and ADR: Best Practices and Ethical Insights  
Ana Sambold, Esq. | Arbitrator - Mediator  
Chair, ABA Dispute Resolution Section

9:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.  Break

10 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.  Breakout Sessions

Track A – Civil  
Harnessing Emotional Intelligence in Mediation  
Margaret Crowley | Attorney - Mediator  
Mediator Training Center

Track B - Family  
Custody Mediation and Domestic Violence: Applying Ethics to Enhance Safety  
Melissa Mangiaracina | Attorney - Mediator  
Mediator Training Center

11:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.  Break

11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.  Managing Power Differentials in an Online Mediation  
Margaret Crowley and Melissa Mangiaracina | Partners  
Mediator Training Center

12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.  Lunch (Provided)

1:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.  Breakout Sessions

Track A – Civil  
From Theory to Practice: Navigating Generative AI Tools  
Ana Sambold | Attorney – Mediator  
Chair, ABA Dispute Resolution Section

Track B – Family  
Dependency/Neglect Facilitations  
Kelly Browe Olson | Associate Professor of Law  
Mediation Clinic Director

2:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.  Break

2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.  The Lasso Effect: Channeling your Inner Coach in Mediation  
Sharon Corsentino | Attorney - Mediator  
Sharon Corsentino Mediations

3:40 p.m. - 4:40 p.m.  Mediation: A View from The Bench  
Judge Shannon Blatt, Twelfth Judicial Circuit Court, Division 3  
Judge Randy Morledge, First Judicial Circuit Court, Division 3
ARKANSAS ADR CONFERENCE AND MEDIATION TRAININGS

To register for the ADR Conference or Mediation Training, please visit arcourts.gov/administration/adrtrainingprograms. Registrations must be paid by credit card.

Arkansas ADR Conference, Little Rock  April 19, 2024
   Cost: Free for Judges, Law Students and Certified Mediators
   Cost: $75 for Attorneys and All Others
   Registration Opens: March 4, 2024
   Registration Closes: April 8, 2024

40-Hour Civil Trial Court Mediation Training, Little Rock  July 15-19, 2024
   Cost: $1,200
   Registration Opens: June 10, 2024
   Registration Closes: July 8, 2024

40-Hour Family Mediation Training, Little Rock  September 23-27, 2024
   Cost: $1,200
   Registration Opens: August 19, 2024
   Registration Closes: September 16, 2024

OTHER PROGRAMS

To register for a program listed below, please email Stephanie.Copeland@arcourts.gov.

Access and Visitation Mediation Orientation, Little Rock  January 18, 2024
   This program is open to individuals certified in domestic relations.
   Registration Opens: November 28, 2023
   Registration Closes: January 4, 2024

Access and Visitation Mediation Orientation, Little Rock  August 15, 2024
   This program is open to individuals certified in domestic relations.
   Registration Opens: July 4, 2024
   Registration Closes: August 8, 2024

Access and Visitation Mediation Advanced CME, Little Rock  September 13, 2024
   This FREE program is open to Certified Access and Visitation mediators ONLY.
   Registration Opens: August 2, 2024
   Registration Closes: September 6, 2024

Mediator Ethics, Law and General Practices in Arkansas
   January 11, 2024 - Zoom
   Applicants who complete basic or family mediation training outside of Arkansas must also complete the Commission’s course Mediator Ethics, Law and General Practices in Arkansas.
40-HOUR CIVIL TRIAL COURT MEDIATION TRAINING

The focus of this training is mediating the litigated civil case. Participants will be introduced to mediation as an alternative way to resolve conflicts. Participants are taught skills used in the mediation process through lecture, discussion and role play. The goal of this course is to assist participants in gaining the skills needed to be an effective mediator.

This course satisfies the 40-hour basic or civil mediation training set forth in the Requirements for the Certification of Mediators for Circuit Courts. However, participants who complete this course are not automatically certified by the Arkansas ADR Commission. Certification can only be achieved by successfully completing the certification application process, which includes meeting additional education, practical experience and ethical standards.

This course is limited to 15 people.

40-HOUR CIVIL TRIAL COURT MEDIATION TRAINING  COST $1,200
July 15–19, 2024
Justice Building, Room 101
625 Marshall Street
Little Rock, AR 72201
• Registration Opens: June 10, 2024
• Registration Closes: July 8, 2024

40-HOUR FAMILY MEDIATION TRAINING

Family Mediation Training is a highly interactive course that provides grounding in the elements of divorce mediation. Through lecture, discussion and simulation, participants will learn the mediation process and develop the skills and knowledge necessary for mediation of property division, custody, visitation and support issues.

This course satisfies the 40-hour family mediation training standard set forth in the Requirements for the Certification of Mediators for Circuit Courts. However, participants who complete this course are not automatically certified by the Arkansas ADR Commission. Certification can only be achieved by successfully completing the certification application process, which includes meeting additional education, practical experience and ethical standards.

This course is limited to 15 people.

40-HOUR FAMILY MEDIATION TRAINING  COST $1,200
September 23-27, 2024
Justice Building, Room 101
625 Marshall Street
Little Rock, AR 72201
• Registration Opens: August 19, 2024
• Registration Closes: September 16, 2024
The Arkansas Alternative Dispute Resolution Commission was created by Act 673 of 1995 and consists of seven volunteer members who have demonstrated prior interest or involvement in alternative dispute resolution. Members are appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Arkansas, Governor, President Pro Tempore of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The primary mission of the Commission is to encourage, promote and develop the voluntary use of alternative dispute resolution processes to resolve disputes, cases and controversies of all kinds.

The Administrative Offices of the Courts (AOC) provides general staff support, facilities and operating assistance for the Commission. The AOC is an agency within the judicial branch of government that works to support the state courts on behalf of the Arkansas Supreme Court.

The mission of the Administrative Offices of the Courts is to support the Arkansas Judiciary and employees of the judicial branch and to assist attorneys and members of the public who rely upon an independent state court system that is efficient, accessible and fair to all.