



Associates in Dispute Resolution LLC

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20th Annual Fall CLE/CDRE Conference



*Celebrating 20 Years of Innovation in
Dispute Resolution Training Events*



November 20, 2026 • Topeka, Kansas

**Hybrid Attendance Options:
In-Person or Live Zoom Webinar**



6.0 CLE/CDRE Credit

Approved for Kansas & Missouri including 1.0 Hours of Ethics

Why Attend?



Earn 6.0 CLE/CDRE credits (including Ethics).



Learn from nationally recognized ADR professionals.



Gain practical mediation and arbitration strategies.



Network with attorneys, mediators, arbitrators, and judges.



Celebrate 20 years of ADR education and innovation.

Location:

Kansas Health Institute Conference Center
212 SW 8th Avenue - First Floor | Topeka, KS 66603





Conference At-a-Glance

Morning Schedule

8:15 am to 8:50 am	Registration & Check-In
8:50 am to 9:00 am	Introductions
9:00 am to 9:25 am	BAD FAITH INSURANCE PRACTICE IN MISSOURI
9:25 am to 9:50 am	BAD FAITH INSURANCE PRACTICE IN KANSAS
9:55 am to 10:45 am	THE ENEMY OF MY ENEMY IS MY FRIEND
10:45 am to 11:00 am	Break (15 minutes)
11:00 am to 11:50 am	CONSUMER AND MASS ARBITRATION: PROCESS, FAIRNESS, TRANSPARENCY AND CURRENT DATA
11:50 am to 12:30 pm	Lunch (Grab a snack or lunch if you are attending via webinar and join us back here at 12:30 pm for more sessions).

Afternoon Schedule

12:30 pm to 1:20 pm	BEYOND THE MYTHS: Elevating YOUR ARBITRATION THROUGH HEARING PREPARATION AND CLAUSE DRAFTING
1:25 pm to 2:15 pm	MASTERING COMPLEX COMMERCIAL MEDIATION
2:15 pm to 2:30 pm	Break (15 minutes)
2:30 pm to 3:20 pm	MOVING PARTIES TO SETTLEMENT BY BRIDGING THE GAP
3:20 pm	ADJOURNMENT

Seminar Location:
Kansas Health Institute Conference Center
212 SW 8th Avenue - First Floor
Topeka, KS 66603

Session Details

9:00–9:25 | BAD FAITH INSURANCE PRACTICE IN MISSOURI | 25-MINUTE SESSION

Presented by Blake Heath

Session Description

This program will provide an in-depth look at recent Missouri insurance bad faith decisions and emerging legal trends, including key issues and practical considerations for practitioners.

Speaker Biography



Blake Heath

Blake Heath of Heath Injury Law, Kansas City, Missouri, has dedicated his career to representing individuals injured by others' negligence. He has experience helping clients in complex personal injury suits, product liability claims, medical malpractice lawsuits, insurance coverage disputes, and class action litigation. Blake has authored several articles and presented on uninsured and underinsured motorist coverage, litigation around § 537.065, and other insurance disputes. He currently serves on the executive committee for the Missouri Association of Trial Attorneys. When not at work, Blake enjoys spending time with his wife Sakinah and their three children, Elizabeth, Brooke, and Asher.

9:25–9:50 | BAD FAITH INSURANCE PRACTICE IN KANSAS | 25-MINUTE SESSION

Presented by L.J. Leatherman and Dustin L. Van Dyk

Session Description

This program will provide an in-depth look at a Supreme Court's recent decision in *Nicholson v. Mercer*, as well as emerging legal trends, including key issues and practical considerations for practitioners.

Speaker Biographies



L.J. Leatherman



Dustin Van Dyk

LJ Leatherman of the Palmer Law Group has been a trusted advocate for injured clients for more than 30 years. He focuses on automobile negligence, wrongful death, third-party insurance claims, and personal injury litigation. His work has earned numerous honors, including recognition as a Top Lawyer by KC Magazine, a Top Personal Injury Lawyer in the Best of Topeka, and a Super Lawyer. LJ also secured a landmark victory before the Kansas Supreme Court that reshaped how insurance companies handle claims in Kansas. A Kansas native and Washburn University School of Law graduate, LJ enjoys traveling, skiing, golf, and time with his family.

Dustin L. Van Dyk of the Palmer Law Group has more than 15 years of experience representing individuals in complex personal injury and wrongful death matters. His practice includes automobile accidents, wrongful death, and medical malpractice, and he has successfully litigated cases in state and federal courts, including the Kansas Supreme Court and 10th Circuit Court of Appeals. Dustin was part of a landmark 2024 Kansas Supreme Court victory that reshaped insurance claims practices in Kansas. A Washburn University School of Law graduate, he has been recognized by The National Trial Lawyers and Super Lawyers. Outside the courtroom, Dustin enjoys live music, coaching youth sports, and spending time with his family.

9:55-10:45 | THE ENEMY OF MY ENEMY IS MY FRIEND | 50-MINUTE SESSION*Presented by L.J. Leatherman and Dustin L. Van Dyk***Session Description**

This presentation will discuss the common ethical implications that arise when handling insurance bad-faith claims in Kansas, drawing on the Kansas Supreme Court's decision in *Nicholson v. Mercer*. The discussion is based on the prism of an insurance bad-faith claim; the ethical issues presented, including conflicts of interest, communication with unrepresented parties, and communication with parties represented by counsel, are common to all practices.

Speaker Biography

L.J. Leatherman



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11:00-11:50 | CONSUMER AND MASS ARBITRATION: PROCESS, FAIRNESS, TRANSPARENCY AND CURRENT DATA | 50-MINUTE SESSION*Presented by Adam Shoneck, Connecticut***Session Description**

This presentation will introduce the basics of consumer arbitration and mass arbitration, then examine the principles that support a fair and credible process, including transparency, neutrality, and the Consumer Due Process Protocol. It will also highlight how the AAA's Consumer Arbitration Rules and Mass Arbitration Supplementary Rules work in practice, including clause review, fee structures, hearing procedures, and process safeguards designed to support fundamentally fair administration. Finally, the presentation will share the latest available AAA data on consumer and mass arbitration, including 2025 consumer filings and outcomes, and the AAA's most recent mass arbitration data and trends.



Adam Shoneck

Speaker Biography

Adam Shoneck, Connecticut, is a Vice President with the American Arbitration Association-International Centre for Dispute Resolution. He has been with the AAA since 2010 and currently serves in an outreach capacity. He is located at the AAA's Rhode Island Case Management Center and enjoys learning, speaking, and writing about consumer- and mass-dispute resolution. In his previous role with the AAA, Adam oversaw operations for the AAA's Self-Represented Administration Team and Consumer Team, including consumer mass arbitrations. Before the AAA, Adam graduated from Pennsylvania State University, Dickinson School of Law.

12:50-1:40 | BEYOND THE MYTHS: ELEVATING YOUR ARBITRATION SKILLS THROUGH HEARING PREPARATION AND CLAUSE DRAFTING | 50-MINUTE SESSION

Presented by Seth Hays, Seattle Washington

Session Description

In this session, you will learn about common arbitration myths and focus on the practical steps that help parties achieve a more efficient and effective process. He will walk through hearing preparation, arbitrator selection, disclosure issues, preliminary hearing strategy, and post-hearing planning, with an emphasis on avoiding unnecessary delay and cost. The session will also cover clause drafting best practices, including how thoughtful drafting can support neutrality, enforceability, and streamlined administration, along with updates on arbitration services, emergency measures, and emerging tools such as AI-assisted dispute resolution.

Speaker Biography



Seth Hays, Seattle, Washington, is Director of ADR Services at the American Arbitration Association based in Seattle, where he promotes the use of fair, efficient, and effective alternative dispute resolution with companies across 14 states in the Western United States, including Kansas. He is a member of the New York State Bar.

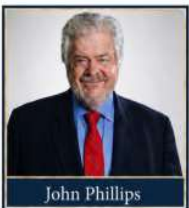
1:45-2:35 | MASTERING COMPLEX COMMERCIAL MEDIATION | 50-MINUTE SESSION

Presented by Joe Eischens, John Phillips, and Jerry Weiss, moderated by Larry Rute

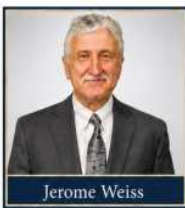
Session Description

Preparing for Success: Renowned and highly experienced mediators, each a distinguished member of the prestigious International Academy of Mediators, discuss the importance of preparing their clients for mediation, the mediator's strategic advanced plan, and effective pre-mediation communication with the parties.

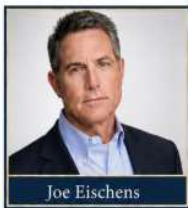
Speaker Biographies



John Phillips



Jerome Weiss



Joe Eischens



Larry Rute

John Phillips, Kansas City, Missouri, brings a wealth of commercial trial lawyer experience to his mediation and arbitration practice. His extensive mediation practice currently specializes in labor and employment. After years of conducting a highly successful mediation practice at Husch Blackwell, he became the third member of the Jay Daugherty Mediation and Arbitration Group in Kansas City. Before that, he served as Chair of the MoBar ADR Committee and subsequently served as Chair of the Dispute Resolution Committee for the ABA Dispute Resolution Section. He has been named twice as the Best Arbitrator and Best Mediator in Kansas City.

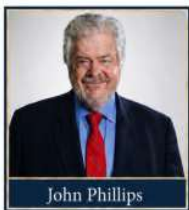
Jerry Weiss, Cleveland, Ohio, is the founder of Mediation Inc in Cleveland, Ohio. He is recognized as the go-to neutral in complex, high-impact, intractable disputes. He is the first lawyer in Cleveland to dedicate his practice entirely to mediation, having served as a mediator and negotiation consultant in thousands of mediations. Jerry is an Adjunct Professor of Law at Case Western Reserve University, where he designed and currently teaches the seminar "Mediation Representation: Theory, Principles, and Practice." He has received Martindale-Hubbell's highest rating, AV Preeminent, for over 30 years. He has been consistently rated First Tier in Mediation by U.S. News and World Report.

Joe Eishens, Kansas City, Missouri, is a seasoned mediator, having spent 25 years in the litigation trenches. He is a member of EV Mediations in Kansas City, Missouri. He is known for his calm, pragmatic approach to resolving most types of civil and commercial disputes. He brings extensive experience in guiding difficult conversations, helping parties find common ground while preserving relationships, if possible. With a reputation for fairness and clear, direct communication, Joe is trusted to foster solutions that balance both practical outcomes and human needs.

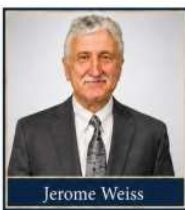
Larry R. Rute, Topeka, Kansas, has mediated more than 5,000 commercial matters involving consumer protection, domestic relations/division of assets, employment law, FLSA, insurance bad faith, personal injury, toxic torts, and other complex, high-profile matters, including class and collective actions. He formerly chaired the Kansas Supreme Court's Dispute Resolution Council. He serves as an Arbitrator and Mediator for the American Arbitration Association and for Associates in Dispute Resolution LLC. Larry is a Distinguished Fellow of the International Academy of Mediators. He serves on the Board and as Chair of the Litigation Committee for Kansas Appleseed.

1:45-2:35 | MOVING PARTIES TO SETTLEMENT BY BRIDGING THE GAP | 50-MINUTE SESSION*Presented by Joe Eischens, John Phillips, and Jerry Weiss, moderated by Larry Rute***Session Description**

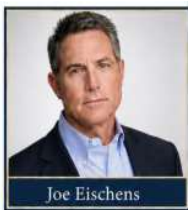
Experienced mediators draw on a range of techniques developed through training and experience. These techniques include, but are not limited to, information gathering, reflecting and reframing positions, reality-testing, managing the parties' emotions and expectations, negotiation coaching, providing practical risk analysis, and using negotiation brackets and the mediator's proposal.

Speaker Biographies

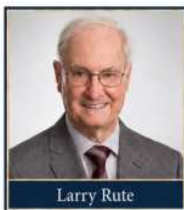
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Registration Information
(In-Person or Webinar Attendance Options)
6.0 hours of CLE/CDRE (f/n/a CME) Credit
which includes 1.0 Hours of Ethics

In-Person Location:
Kansas Health Institute Conference Center
212 SW 8th Avenue - First Floor
Topeka, KS 66603

In-Person Attendee Options

- _____ SAVE \$30.00! Early-Bird In-Person Rate, \$245.00
(postmarked on or before Friday, October 30, 2026). Lunch is on us, and you will receive an electronic version of the materials before the seminar date. No printed materials.
- _____ Regular Rate In-Person Rate, \$275.00 (after October 30, 2026). Lunch is on us, and you will receive an electronic version of the materials before the seminar date. No printed materials.

Webinar Attendee Options

- _____ SAVE \$30.00! Early-Bird Webinar Rate, \$235.00
(postmarked on or before Friday, October 30, 2026). You will receive an electronic version of the materials before the seminar date. No printed materials.
- _____ Regular Webinar Rate, \$265.00 (after October 30, 2026). You will receive an electronic version of the materials before the seminar date. No printed materials.

*If you have any specific accessibility needs for the event, please
contact dawn@adrmediate.com prior to October 30, 2026.*

You may register online at <https://adrmediate.com/trainings> or by scanning the QR Code or use our payment link:
<https://app.autobooks.co/pay/associates-in-dispute-resolution> for credit card payments. Please complete the form
below and fax, mail, or e-mail the registration to: (785) 357-0002 or info@adrmediate.com.

Our mailing address is: 212 SW 8th Ave., Suite 207, |Topeka, KS 66603-3937.

Please get in touch with us at 785-357-1800 with any questions.

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Associates In Dispute Resolution
LLC

We accept Check, Visa,
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bank payments through
the QR code or pay link.

CANCELLATION POLICY

Cancellation policy: In the event you register and are unable to attend, we offer a full refund up to and including October 30, 2026. After October 30, 2026, 80% of registration fees will be refunded for cancellations.
Thank you.