



# 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).

### **Currently Approved Training Programs**

*Applicant must have 40 hours of 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. The training program must be approved by AAM. Applicant must provide proof of satisfying those requirements and such other information about the mediation training as may be required by AAM.*

#### **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 requirements of the laws, the Bar, and local rules of Court, if any.

#### **The mediation course should 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 on the faculty 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).