



# AAM-a-gram

## ASSOCIATION OF ATTORNEY-MEDIATORS

### President's Message

November 2020

*"...to support and promote professional and qualified attorney-mediators who are committed to the proposition that the existing dispute resolution system can fulfill its intended purpose through the use of mediation."*

2020–2021  
AAM

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Executive Director,  
Allison Ellis

#### Message from Jimmy Lawson . . .

The year 2020 will long be remembered as one of the most unusual and challenging years since, well, since people began making such lists. It has seemed as though the months have been engaged in a game of one-upsmanship, each trying to outdo its predecessor in terms of bizarre and life-altering events. Can anyone be blamed if he or she tears the last couple of months from their desk calendar in hopes that 2020 can be ushered out more quickly than the Earth's orbit around the Sun normally allows? I'm no astronomer and I don't play one on TV, but I know I will let out a big exhale when it's time to sing Auld Lang Syne.

Our organization has not been immune (pardon the COVID pun) to the effects of world events. AAM's Annual Conference, typically held in April each year, had to be canceled due to the onset of the pandemic. Five months later, our yearly "Fly In, Fly Out" Conference became a "Log In, Log Off" Conference, held remotely via Zoom. But what we may have missed this year in the areas of fellowship and networking, we seem to have gained in actual participation. AAM saw double the normal number of registrants and attendees at the fall conference. This tells me three things: (1) people are getting used to having meetings held online and are embracing the idea of remote learning; (2) our members recognize that getting together remotely is so much better than not getting together at all; and, (3) AAM continues to be a strong, vibrant organization despite the obstacles that 2020 has presented.

Encouraged by the overwhelmingly positive responses we have received to the fall conference and the one-hour webinar that AAM sponsored in July, plans are already being made for more CLE and CME opportunities via webinar in the coming

**CHAPTER  
PRESIDENTS**

Bexar County/San  
Antonio Chapter  
Don Philbin

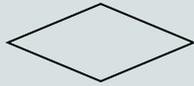
Central Texas  
Chapter  
David Moore

Illinois Chapter  
Bob Berliner

North Texas Chapter  
John Shipp

Oklahoma Chapter  
Jake Jones

St. Louis Chapter  
Frank Neuner



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Attorney-Mediators**

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mediators.org**

***President's Message—Continued***

months. Look for announcements from our Executive Director, Allison Ellis, as these plans come more into focus. Also, since the outlook for next April is still very much unknown, our President-Elect, Frank Neuner, is hard at work planning two conferences – one that would be held in St. Louis in accordance with our original plans, and one that would be held remotely should COVID or a plague of locusts prevent meeting in person. If the recently held fall conference is any indication, you will not want to miss what Frank has in store for you next spring.

Before closing, let me issue an invitation of my own. If anyone – anyone – has an idea for a topic that he or she believes would be well received as a one-hour webinar or as part of the CLE/CME agenda next spring, let us know! AAM distinguishes itself by being on the cutting edge, fostering debate and discussion designed to make us all better, more effective mediators. That can only happen if our members get involved and actively participate, and that means sharing your thoughts and ideas with the rest of us. You can always reach Allison Ellis at [aam@attorney-mediators.org](mailto:aam@attorney-mediators.org), or, if you prefer, you can correspond with me by email at [jimmy@hamlindispute.com](mailto:jimmy@hamlindispute.com). Remember, no great idea should remain unexpressed, and no legitimate point of view should remain unconsidered.

Stay safe, stay connected, and please don't mutilate your calendar.

Jimmy Lawson

**James D. Lawson, P.C.**

10094 Ridgewood Oak Drive  
Lakeland, Tennessee 38002  
(901) 201-9668 (Telephone)  
[jimmy@hamlindispute.com](mailto:jimmy@hamlindispute.com)

## AAM Welcomes New Members

AAM has enjoyed adding to its roster the following new members since the printing of the last newsletter:

Jack Bangert, Leawood, KS

Douglas Barker, San Diego, CA

Michael Cronin, Austin, TX

Angela Downes, Dallas, TX

Ronald Gieseke, Chicago, IL

Robert Hargett, Austin, TX

Jacqueline Johnson, Dallas, TX

Laura Kass-Moreno, San Diego, CA

Andrew Koch, San Antonio, TX

Diego Pena, Arlington, TX

Adam Pomerantz, Flower Mound, TX

Sarah Sarahan, Austin, TX

Olga Seelig, Austin, TX

Arlene Steinfield, Dallas, TX

Darica Tudor, Kirckland, WA

Larry Zier, Scottsdale, AZ

We welcome you to this organization and hope you will contact a Board Member, your chapter president, or the AAM national office if you need anything or want to become involved.

*Welcome!*

***A message from Frank Neuner, President-Elect...***

Fellow AAM Members:

It was great to see so many of you in attendance (virtually, that is) on September 11 at our mid-year Advanced Attorney-Mediator Training and CLE Seminar: Remote but Together.

We had a tremendous turnout for this event – with 148 registrants, including 30 non-members!! The level of engagement throughout the presentations – with questions and input throughout – was terrific.

We hope that you found the program to be thought-provoking, entertaining, and useful in your mediation practices. I know I did!

We want to give special thanks to our presenters -- Jerry Diekemper, Karen Washington, Peter Silverman, Michael Hawash, Lisbeth Bulmash and Sharmeen Ladhani. We greatly appreciate each of you taking valuable time to share your insights with our group.

Also, on behalf of all our members and attendees, I express deep gratitude to Executive Director, Allison Ellis, for her tireless work in planning, organizing, and administering this event. It was the first time that AAM conducted a full day conference in webinar format – so Allison was literally blazing new ground. Terrific work!!

We look forward to our next big event, the Annual Meeting and CLE Seminar, scheduled for April 23-24, 2021 in St. Louis, Missouri. We hope to be able to meet in person, but if health and safety concerns require us to meet remotely again, we will have a terrific session planned – complete with educational and social components. We hope to see you all there!

In the meantime, I extend warm wishes to all of you for a safe and enjoyable holiday season.

All the best,  
Frank Neuner, President-Elect



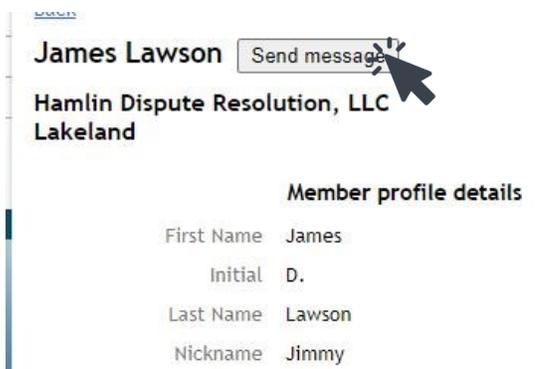
**Francis "Frank" X. Neuner, Jr.**  
120 S. Central Ave., Suite 1250  
St. Louis, MO 63105  
314/748-1680; 314/402-0035 (Cell)  
[frank@neunermediation.com](mailto:frank@neunermediation.com)

# MEMBER PROFILE PRIVACY SETTINGS

Members set their own privacy settings within their member profile of the AAM website. Each member is able to select what information and data on their searchable profile is public. **Please look over your selected privacy settings and update based on your preferences.**

If you want a way for AAM website visitors to contact you without publicly publishing your email addresses on the website, you can update your member profile to have a **Send message** button instead of your contact details. This member contact form will help prevent you from being targeted by spammers. You can be contacted while still maintaining privacy. Members can choose to enable or disable the contact form for their own account by clicking on the **Privacy** link their member profile. (See next page for how-to instructions)

**Example “send message” contact form:**



The screenshot shows a member profile for James Lawson. At the top, there is a 'Send message' button with a mouse cursor hovering over it. Below the button, the member's name and company are listed: 'James Lawson', 'Hamlin Dispute Resolution, LLC', and 'Lakeland'. Underneath, there is a section titled 'Member profile details' which lists the following information:

Member profile details	
First Name	James
Initial	D.
Last Name	Lawson
Nickname	Jimmy



## PHISHING ATTACKS

Phishing attacks are emails pretending to be from legitimate people or companies that aim to obtain and misuse your personal information. **Make sure you know the basics: check if you recognize the sender's address, and don't click any links or give any information unless you're sure it's legitimate.** If you have a question about the legitimacy of any email supposedly from AAM or an AAM Officer, please email [aam@attorney-mediators.org](mailto:aam@attorney-mediators.org)

# MEMBER PROFILE PRIVACY SETTINGS

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR UPDATING YOUR PROFILE PRIVACY

To change your privacy settings, please follow these steps:

1. Log into your account at [www.attorney-mediators.org](http://www.attorney-mediators.org)
2. Go to your member profile by clicking on your name
3. Click the Privacy link
4. Click the Edit profile button to enter edit mode
5. You may now choose whether to enable the member contact form and/or disable your email address being visible to the public
6. Once you are finished making changes to your settings, click the Save button.

### My profile

[Profile](#) [Privacy](#) [Email subscriptions](#)

Show profile to others

#### Details to show

(in member directories, forum and blog posts)

	 Anybody	 Members	 No access
 Photo album	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
 Send message form	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
 Membership level	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Thank you to AAM Members Danielle Hargrove, Jean Lawler, Jimmy Lawson and Michael Leech, along with guest panelist Jeff Kichaven, for a wonderful discussion on Online Mediation Confidentiality in July! If you missed the session, you can access the recording [here in the Members Only section](#) of the AAM website.



*Thank  
you*

A special thank you to AAM President-Elect Frank Neuner for his incredible work in planning and emceeding our first virtual CLE seminar in September! **Thank you, Frank!**

## DID YOU MISS THE FALL CLE SEMINAR ON 09/11/2020?

The original presentation was recorded and is offered for viewing online. Watch the recording on-demand by registering on the AAM website here: [Online Viewing: Advanced Attorney-Mediator Training and CLE Seminar: Fall 2020, Remote but Together](#)

The fee to view the recording is \$75 for Members and \$125 for Non-Members. In order to receive MCLE Credit you will need to complete the Record of Attendance Form after viewing the video. Once completed, the AAM Office will submit your attendance information to the MCLE Board and email a certificate of attendance to you.

## 2021 Annual Membership Renewal

All memberships renew on January 1, 2021. Renewal invoices will be sent out in late November so you may choose to pre-pay your 2021 dues before year-end so that your membership will show as active on January 1, 2021. New and returning members dues will be \$275 annually.

Part of your membership renewal includes completing an easy-to-fill [online Membership Qualifications form](#) that is required by our Insurance. There will be a link on the bottom of your membership invoice and also located in the Members Only Area on the website, so that you may complete the form online.

This form must be returned to the AAM National Office to complete the 2021 Membership Renewal process. Please update your mediation career total, mediation career range and contact information at [www.attorney-mediators.org](http://www.attorney-mediators.org). After completing this form you will receive an email from the AAM Office confirming your Membership Renewal for 2021.

### Keep AAM Membership Strong



Take time to encourage at least three (3) colleagues of yours who are not AAM Members to consider joining AAM. We want to continue Past President, Sid McCollum's mantra of "**Each One – Get One**".

Benefits include the group liability insurance policy through Complete Equity Markets covering mediation (and arbitration) in the amount of \$500,000 - \$2,000,000 aggregate with a \$500 deductible. Ask anyone that has had the misfortune to need this coverage – it is a great addition!

## CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Request for speakers proposals for sessions to be included in AAM's *Advanced* Attorney-Mediator Training and Annual Meeting to be held Friday, April 23 and Saturday, April 24, 2021 in St. Louis, Missouri.



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If you would like to be considered to be a part of the faculty for the Spring 2021 program, we would love to see your proposal.

- We are looking for creative, imaginative, energetic speakers who will actively engage with the participating attendees.
- As AAM's membership expands throughout the country, there is an increased need to include topics that will appeal to attorney-mediators at all levels of experience and will touch on areas of interest that are often overlooked in other CME presentations.
- We want to be up-to-date without sacrificing the tried and true; we want to broaden our horizons so that our view of mediation is vast, not limited as to any one genre or venue.

Please complete the proposal form (link below) and send it to: Frank Neuner at [frank@neunermediation.com](mailto:frank@neunermediation.com) or Allison Ellis at [aam@attorney-mediators.org](mailto:aam@attorney-mediators.org) by *no later than December 23, 2020.*

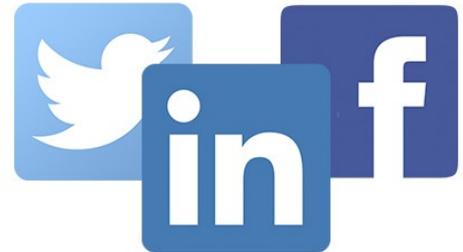
For more details and to submit a proposal, please see the link below for the Speaker Proposal Information Sheet:

[AAM Spring 2021 Annual Meeting Speaker Proposal Form](#)

If you are recommending someone other than yourself, please supply the requested information as well as their contact information. Presenters will receive notification of acceptance by email or phone call in early January 2021. AAM is unable to reimburse speakers for their travel or other expenses, nor is it able to pay an honorarium. Speakers will be offered a discounted registration fee. We are grateful for your input and your willingness to serve.

### Let's get social!

Join us on social media as AAM becomes more active on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and LinkedIn.



### We're looking for content from our Members!

Submit articles and photos to the AAM National Office to be included in our upcoming posts.

### We hope that you will join us!



Join us for Happy Hour! AAM is hosting a virtual Holiday Happy Hour on December 9, 2020. Register here: <https://attorney-mediators.org/event-4068151>

AAM Member Chris Nolland will be presenting a 90-minute webinar on January 15, 2021.

We are tentatively planning to host our Spring 2021 Annual Meeting and CLE Seminar in St. Louis, Missouri on April 23-24, 2021.

Please **Save The Date** to join us at our upcoming events. **Once available, more details will be shared via the [AAM website](#) and via email.**