



Qualification Criteria and Responsibilities for Members of the AAA® Panel of Pension/ERISA Arbitrators

The American Arbitration Association® (AAA) is the nation's leading provider of alternative dispute resolution services. The AAA is committed to offering a Panel of Pension/ERISA Arbitrators in whom parties can have the utmost confidence, comprised of individuals with whom the Association has a strong and positive relationship and is based primarily on caseload needs and user preferences.

Qualification Criteria

Members on the AAA Panel of Pension/ERISA Arbitrators (which includes the MEPPA Panel, Employee Benefit Panel and the Trustee Deadlock Panel) must meet or exceed the following qualification criteria:

- Attorneys with a minimum of 10 years experience in Pension/ERISA law with fifty (50) percent of your practice devoted to this field or retired judges.
- Educational degree(s) and/or professional license(s) appropriate to your field of expertise.
- Honors, awards and citations indicating leadership in your field.
- Training or experience in arbitration and/or other forms of dispute resolution.
- Membership in a professional association(s).
- Other relevant experience or accomplishments (e.g. published articles).

Responsibilities

Members on the AAA Panel of Pension/ERISA Arbitrators must understand and support their responsibilities to the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) process, the parties that they serve, and the AAA. The responsibilities inherent in the role of a Neutral include:

Neutrality

- Freedom from bias and prejudice.
- Commitment to impartiality and objectivity.
- Ability to evaluate and apply legal, business, or trade principles.



Judicial Capacity

- Ability to manage the hearing process.
- Thorough and impartial evaluation of testimony and other evidence.

Reputation

- Held in the highest regard by peers for integrity, fairness and good judgment.
- Dedicated to upholding the *AAA Code of Ethics for Arbitrators in Commercial Disputes* and/or *Model Standards of Conduct for Mediators*.

Commitment to ADR Process

- Willingness to devote time and effort when selected to serve.
- Willingness to commit to speed, economy and a just resolution.
- Willingness to support efforts of the AAA and the policies and practices the AAA applies to best serve the field of ADR.
- Willingness to successfully complete training under the guidelines of the Commercial Arbitration Development Program.

The composition of the Roster of Neutrals is at the sole discretion of the AAA, including the selection and retention decisions of arbitrators and mediators. Continuation on the Roster or an Industry Panel is subject to standard review based on service need, qualifications and performance, as deemed appropriate by AAA. Neither acceptance to the Roster nor appointment to cases shall make any member of the Roster of Neutrals an employee, agent or independent contractor of the AAA.