

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

In our commitment to serving the best interests of our clients, Hodgson Russ attorneys focus first and foremost on preventing legal disputes. When conflict is unavoidable, our experienced team of litigators offers a full range of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) services, including mediation and arbitration, at the federal, state, and local levels, giving clients the option, opportunity, and resources to resolve disputes outside the courtroom when appropriate.



ADR characteristically facilitates settlement between disputing parties more quickly and cost-effectively than bringing a lawsuit to trial. Depending on the form of ADR selected, it can also be more flexible than traditional courtroom proceedings, often allowing for more innovative, satisfactory, and amicable solutions to business disputes.

When clients choose to pursue ADR, our attorneys help evaluate their particular set of circumstances to determine which type of ADR is most appropriate. Common forms of ADR include mediation, in which a neutral mediator works with disputing parties to reach a mutually acceptable reconciliation of their differences, and arbitration, in which a third-party arbitrator independently decides the outcome of a dispute after evaluating both sides of the argument. Arbitration can be binding, meaning the parties waive their right, generally speaking, to appeal the arbitrator's decision, or non-binding, which allows involved parties to request a trial if they oppose the arbitrator's decision. Mediation can be especially helpful when keeping open the lines of communication is in the best interest of both sides of the conflict, while arbitration is typically appropriate for technically complex disputes. Our experienced ADR team will work closely with both parties to customize an optimal ADR process.

An overriding benefit of ADR, no matter the form selected, is its tendency to mitigate hostilities and feelings of animosity between involved parties. ADR promotes cooperation and, compared to litigation, has a greater potential for preserving important business and personal relationships. ADR will not work in every case, and sometimes going to court is unavoidable, but when cost, speed, or the parties' relationship is a concern, ADR often proves to be the best avenue. Hodgson Russ attorneys strive to give the option, opportunity, and resources to resolve disputes outside the courtroom when appropriate.



Our ADR team has extensive experience in areas that include commercial, construction, contracts, education, estates and trusts, and personal injury matters, among many others.

CONTACT

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PROFESSIONALS

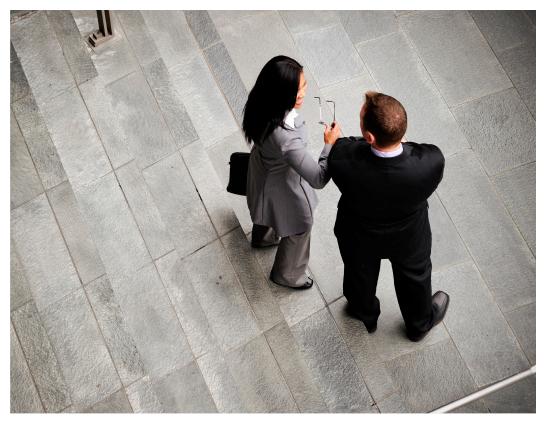
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All members of the practice have extensive trial experience, experience with the calculation of damages in key substantive areas, and experience as participants in alternate dispute resolution processes, including arbitrations, mediations, and extensive settlement discussions. Each member is available to assist as a third-party neutral, a selected arbitration panel member, a mediator, or as a facilitator of settlement discussions, whether directed by a court, mandated by an agreement, or by agreement of the parties. Hodgson Russ's ADR attorneys are also aware of the need to provide their services economically and in a timely way. The practice has wide flexibility in how it charges for its services and looks forward to partnering with the litigants and counsel to ensure the process reflects the interests of the parties in resolving disputes short of expensive and timeconsuming litigation.

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