

ADR Practitioners Lunchtime Teleconference Series

July 22, 2009 12:00 noon - 1:30 p.m.

Call In Information:

1-888-453-4221 Participant Passcode: 838404#

Topic: Impact of Passage of the Fairness in Arbitration Act on Resolution of Disputes Involving Employment, Consumer, Franchise and Residential Construction

The Fairness in Arbitration Act of 2009 is pending in the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate. If passed, how will this act impact the ADR environment? Will the mandatory arbitration provisions included in millions of residential construction contracts, real estate purchases and sale agreements still be enforceable? Each year, thousands of disputes involving such diverse issues as offers of employment, credit card terms, health insurance coverage and nursing home care are resolved in arbitration. What will happen if these disputes are suddenly thrust into an overburdened and less than user friendly court system? Will businesses be more or less inclined to include non-binding arbitration or mediation provisions in future contracts involving employees or consumers or will they abandon ADR altogether?

Pull up a chair and join in a timely discussion as P. Jean Baker shares insights into the potential ramifications surrounding passage of the Fairness in Arbitration Act and the Supreme Court's recent decision to determine whether arbitrators may continue to impose class arbitration when the underlying arbitration agreement is silent regarding that issue.

Speaker: P. Jean Baker, Esq.

P. Jean Baker, Esq., provides oversight for American Arbitration Association's (AAA) commercial activities in NJ, PA, DE, MD, VA and Washington, D.C. She routinely conducts presentations for public and private sector audiences, both domestically and internationally on a variety of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) related topics, assists large and small businesses with the design and implementation of commercial ADR programs, and serves as a mediator and trainer for AAA on special projects. In addition to authoring numerous articles concerning the use of ADR in a variety of commercial contexts, Ms. Baker has been an instructor of ADR at Georgetown University Law Center. Her inclusion in 1996 and subsequent years as an ADR professional in *Who's Who in American Law* serves to highlight Ms. Baker's contributions to the practice and

theory of ADR. Augmenting her legal background is a vita displaying a variety of management positions held at major corporations, including General Electric, Racal Dana, and Fluke Manufacturing.

Brought to you by the Maryland Mediation and Conflict Resolution Office (MACRO)

The purpose of the series is to bring topics of interest to Maryland ADR practitioners. Four (4) times a year, ADR practitioners will be able to participate in a 90 minute presentation from the comfort of their telephone. **Watch** for the upcoming conferences.

Feel free to bring your lunch!