

Creative Dispute Resolutions, LLC

Mediation, Arbitration, and Other Dispute Resolution Services Throughout Maryland and Washington, D.C.

E-Newsletter
May 2009

MEDIATOR OF THE MONTH



***N. Alfred Pasternak,
Esq.***

Al has been one of the leading trusts and estates attorneys in Maryland and D.C. for decades. Al is a founding partner of the well-respected law firm of Pasternak & Fidis in Bethesda, a fellow of the American College of Estate and Trust Counsel, a Maryland and D.C. *Super Lawyer* in Estate Planning and Probate, and a Certified Public Accountant, as well. In addition to his law practice, Al serves as a mediator for probate matters (wills, trusts, and estates) and tax and business planning disputes.

To review Al Pasternak's complete biography, please [click here](#).

Feature

Probate Mediation

While mediation works well with virtually any type of dispute or claim (even those that are just pecuniary), it can be especially useful when there are strong emotions fueling the conflict. That's why mediation is such a natural fit when it comes to probate disputes. Disagreements over the distribution of assets in an estate or the appointment and/or performance of a personal representative often stem from unresolved conflict within the family. Relying upon the litigation process to resolve these types of disputes is not only time consuming and expensive, it also leaves the parties frustrated and dissatisfied. Mediation, on the other hand, lets these same parties express themselves fully, remain in control of the decision-making process, eliminate risks associated with trying a case in court, and explore creative alternatives to the problem -- all while saving them considerable time and money. Several of the mediators with Creative Dispute Resolutions recently gave a presentation on the process of probate mediation and its numerous benefits. A copy of the outline for this presentation can be [found here](#).

- Erik C. Johnson

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Recent ADR Articles and News

ADR of "Green Construction" Disputes

A recent article in Maryland's Daily Record highlighted the likely increase in disputes concerning "green construction." The environmentally-friendly construction industry is expanding, as are government regulations requiring new buildings to use "green" construction materials and to meet certain efficiency standards. These are certainly laudable goals, but with every new industry comes with it ambiguity and uncertainty as to what obligations are owed and by whom. Several construction law attorneys interviewed for the article predicted that a wave of new litigation may arise from green construction. Construction

MORE Info

Interested in learning more about mediation, arbitration, or our other ADR services? Please contact us with any requests or questions you may have, or to inquire about a free seminar or presentation to your organization regarding the various ADR options.

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disputes such as these are great candidates for ADR (mediation and arbitration, in particular) because of the enormous cost and time savings generally realized by the parties. [Back to top](#)

Creative Dispute Resolutions Adds Three New Mediators/Arbitrators

Creative Dispute Resolutions is pleased to announce that it has recently added three new mediators/arbitrators to its panel: **Hon. William J. Rowan, III (Ret.); James B. Astrachan, Esq.; and Edward J. Gutman, Esq.** Judge Rowan recently retired from the Circuit Court of Montgomery County and now serves as a mediator and arbitrator for all types of civil disputes. Jim Astrachan is a principal in the Baltimore-based law firm Astrachan, Gunst Thomas, P.C., the co-author of *The Law of Advertising*, and a mediator and arbitrator of intellectual property disputes. Ed Gutman is a former partner with Semmes, Bowen & Semmes and has been a full-time mediator and arbitrator of employment, commercial, and personal injury disputes for the past five years. More information about Judge Rowan, Jim Astrachan, and Ed Gutman can be found under the "Mediators/Resolution Professionals" tab on our website. [Back to top](#)

Upcoming Events

May 26-28, 2009 -- *Inside/Out Television Appearance*

Two mediators from Creative Dispute Resolutions -- Hon. Ann N. Sundt (Ret.) and Erik C. Johnson, Esq. -- will be appearing on the local television show *Inside/Out* hosted by Pat Smith. The discussion will center on alternative dispute resolution (mediation, in particular), including its application in the area of family law disputes. The show is scheduled to air on Channel 16 on May 26 at 10 p.m., May 27 at 7 p.m., and May 28 at 7:30 p.m. Please tune in and let us know what you think.

June 10-12, 2009 -- *MSBA Annual Meeting in Ocean City, Maryland*

Creative Dispute Resolutions will be an exhibitor and sponsor at the Maryland State Bar Association's Annual Meeting in Ocean City, Maryland this year. Please stop by our exhibit booth for materials regarding our ADR services and for more information about our panel of mediators and arbitrators.

June 17, 2009 -- *ADR Presentation with The HR Team, Inc.*

Erik Johnson of Creative Dispute Resolutions will be part of an upcoming panel discussion on ADR hosted by The HR Team, Inc. and scheduled for Wednesday, June 17 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. The

presentation will focus on the different types of ADR, the benefits associated with each, and the utility of ADR clauses in various contracts and agreements. The audience for this presentation will be CEOs, business owners, CFOs, and Human Resources managers. If you or someone you know may be interested in attending, please contact [us](#) or [Eileen Levitt at The HR Team](#) for more information.

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