

New Developments in State Fiscal Year 2010

- ▶ As part of its projects and priorities delineated by the Supreme Court, the Alternative Dispute Resolution Coordinating Committee (ADR Committee) of the Illinois Judicial Conference created a *Uniform Arbitrator Reference Manual* and developed a related training outline and materials. During 2010, the manual was distributed to all 16 arbitration programs for utilization as a tool to train new attorneys wishing to serve as arbitrators, as well as retrain existing arbitrators.
- ▶ The ADR Committee was charged by the Supreme Court with developing an arbitrator training video to accompany the *Uniform Arbitrator Reference Manual*. To help inform the crafting of its training video for statewide application, the Committee viewed existing training videos, as well as observed a live training offered in the Circuit Court of Cook County. The video will serve as a bridge in training and will be made available as a tool offered to assist in training those attorneys who are interested in serving as arbitrators when immediate training is not available. The training video is not intended to supplant in-person training; however, it is planned to be used as a mechanism to satisfy eligibility requirements for new arbitrators. In concept, the prospective arbitrator would view the video, thereby qualifying him/her to be immediately eligible to arbitrate. The Committee began development of an outline for the training video in 2010, and plans to begin production of the video in 2011.
- ▶ In its continued efforts to enrich the data analysis of arbitration programs and improve program operations and outcomes, the Supreme Court charged the ADR Committee with reviewing the current methods of collecting arbitration statistics to determine whether the data are accurately capturing the results of the program as intended when arbitration was implemented in 1987. A new aggregate data form, which more accurately captures information throughout the arbitration process, was created during 2010 and will be implemented for inclusion in the Fiscal Year 2011 report.
- ▶ The ADR Committee was also charged with surveying program practitioners and identifying measures of participant satisfaction with ADR processes. The ADR Committee, during 2010, reviewed survey instruments collected from various arbitration programs and related data, and identified the most useful information for improving arbitration processes in the state of Illinois. A survey instrument was developed and is anticipated to be administered in 2011 to all arbitration programs.
- ▶ As part of its projects and priorities assigned by the Supreme Court for 2010, the ADR Committee examined the possibility of developing a mentor program for arbitrator chairpersons. The purpose of the chairperson mentor program is to enhance training and offer a prospective arbitrator chairperson the practical experience necessary to excel as a fair and impartial chairperson. During 2010, the ADR Committee began to consider and preliminarily design a system of peer mentors for arbitration panel chairs. The goal of such an initiative is to provide a framework and a system for all sixteen (16) arbitration sites to support, enrich and advance the role of panel chairs.