



NEW YORK STATE DISPUTE RESOLUTION ASSOCIATION

Annual Report - FY 2025

Honoring 40 Years of Advancing Access to Justice Through ADR



In partnership with New York's
statewide network of
Community Dispute Resolution Centers (CDRCs)

nysdra.org | info@nysdra.org



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A Word from NYSDRA's Executive Director



As we celebrate 40 years of history, I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to lead such a remarkable organization and to stand alongside our extraordinary network of Community Dispute Resolution Centers (CDRCs) across New York State. NYSDRA is more than an association—it is a vibrant partnership of dedicated professionals, volunteers, and community advocates united by a shared vision of accessible, peaceful conflict resolution for all.

The accomplishments highlighted in this report reflect the collective strength and dedication of our entire CDRC network. From the Adirondacks to Long Island, from the Southern Tier to the North Country, our member centers have demonstrated unwavering commitment to their communities—resolving conflicts, rebuilding relationships, and creating pathways to justice for thousands of New Yorkers.

This year marks a momentous milestone: NYSDRA's 40th anniversary. Four decades ago, visionary leaders imagined a future where communities could resolve disputes through understanding and collaboration rather than confrontation. That vision took root and continues to flourish today—guiding our efforts as we expand access, enhance services, and deepen our collective impact through our strategic plan.

Our enduring collaborations—with the New York State Unified Court System, educational institutions, our statewide member network of community dispute resolution centers, and fellow ADR practitioners—embody the collaborative spirit that has always defined NYSDRA. Together, we serve more than 51,000 New York residents each year and prepare the next generation of dispute resolution professionals to carry this vital work forward.

As we honor our 40th year and look toward the decades ahead, I am filled with optimism for the future of dispute resolution in New York State. The foundation we have built—rooted in collaboration, compassion, and community—positions us to meet tomorrow's challenges with the same vision and resolve that have guided us for the past forty years. Together, we celebrate our legacy and embrace the opportunities ahead.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Theresa Hobbs".

THERESA HOBBS

NYSDRA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Who We Are

NYSDRA serves as the coordinating association for New York State's pioneering network of Community Dispute Resolution Centers (CDRCs)—18 centers spanning all 62 counties. Our membership brings together this CDRC network with volunteers, individual practitioners, and conflict management professionals from diverse industries and backgrounds.

As both a membership organization and program administrator, we coordinate essential dispute resolution services that reach over 74,000 New York residents annually. Through our partnership with CDRCs and individual practitioners, we ensure these services remain accessible to all New Yorkers—irrespective of income, race, ethnicity, citizenship status, language spoken, or physical or cognitive challenges. Our programs and services are specifically designed to be responsive to individualized local community needs while maintaining the highest standards of quality and professionalism.

Our Mission

The New York State Dispute Resolution Association, Inc. (NYSDRA) is a not-for-profit membership organization committed to promoting quality conflict management and peaceful dispute resolution throughout New York State. Through leadership, education, advancement of professional standards and training, and development of innovative statewide programs, NYSDRA provides opportunities for people, communities, organizations, and businesses to effectively respond to conflict, repair harm, and build stronger connections.

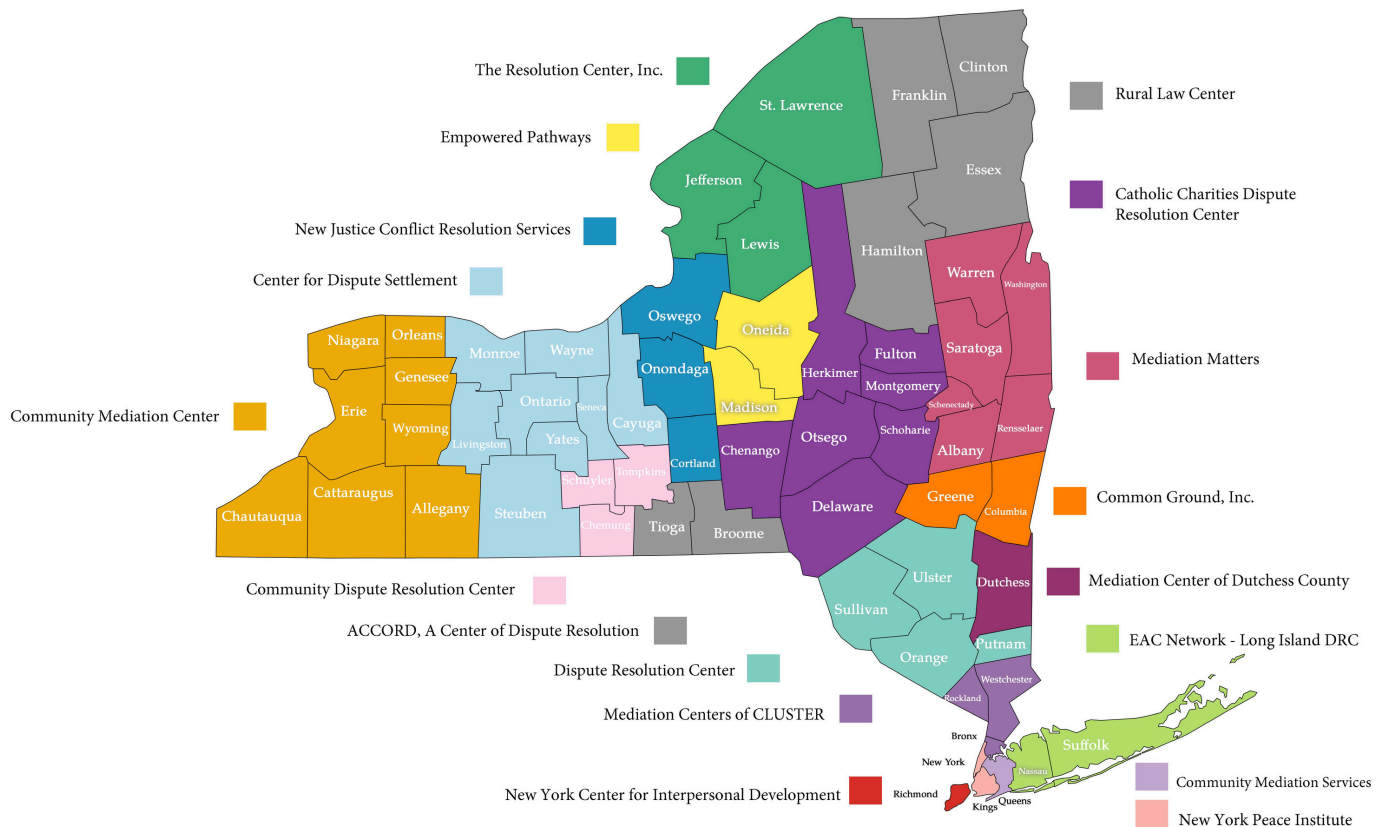
Our History

Founded in 1985, NYSDRA emerged from the groundbreaking Community Dispute Resolution Centers Program created through Article 21A of the Judiciary Law in 1982. What began as an informal association of CDRC Directors has evolved into a dynamic statewide organization managing multiple dispute resolution programs for state and federal agencies.

Our growth reflects our responsiveness to community needs. In 1989, we secured our first state contract with the Division of Housing and Community Renewal. Throughout the 1990s and 2000s, we expanded our portfolio to include the Lemon Law Arbitration Program, Special Education Mediation, the New York State Agricultural Mediation Program, and Early Intervention Services. In 1996, recognizing the evolution of the field, we expanded membership beyond CDRC directors to include volunteer mediators and private practitioners—creating a richer, more collaborative professional community.

For nearly four decades, NYSDRA has served as both coordinator and innovator, strengthening New York's dispute resolution infrastructure while maintaining our founding commitment to accessible, high-quality services that help communities resolve conflict peacefully.

Our Statewide CDRC Member Network



ACCORD - A Center for Dispute Resolution, Inc.

Catholic Charities Dispute Resolution Center

Center for Dispute Settlement

Common Ground Dispute Resolution Center, Inc.

Community Dispute Resolution Center, Inc.

Community Mediation Center

Community Mediation Services

Dispute Resolution Center

EAC - Long Island Dispute Resolution Centers

Empowered Pathways

Mediation Center of Dutchess County, Inc.

Mediation Centers of CLUSTER

Mediation Matters, Inc.

New Justice Conflict Resolution Services, Inc.

New York Center for Interpersonal Development

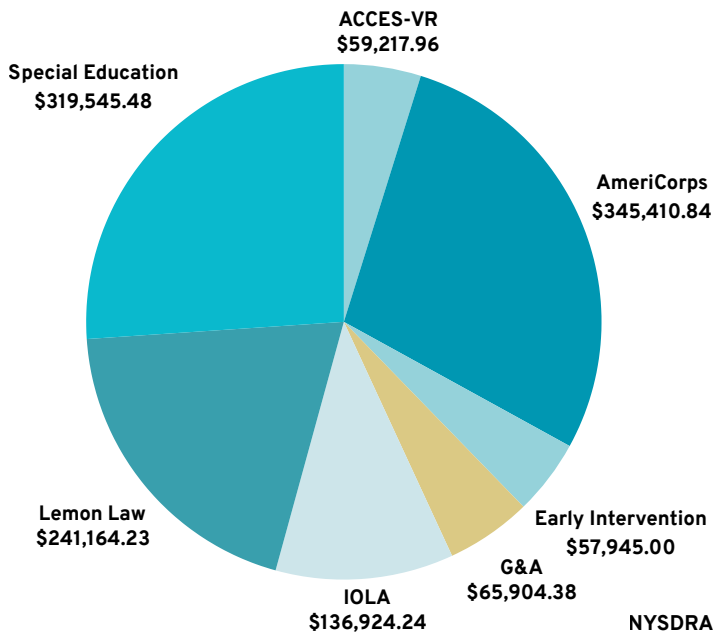
New York Peace Institute

The Resolution Center, Inc.

Rural Law Center of New York

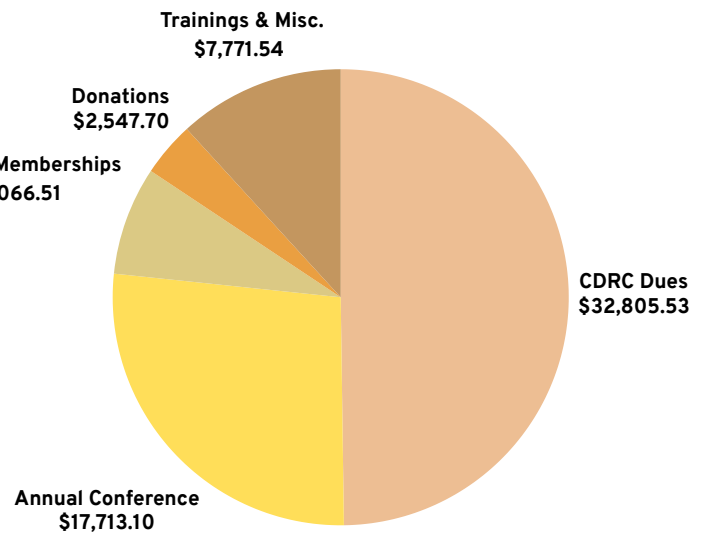
NYSDRA Financial Overview

Total Revenue by Source



Total Revenue for FYE 2025:
\$1,226,112.33

General & Administrative Revenue by Source



NYSDRA's diverse portfolio of programs continued to grow in FY2025, reflecting both organizational strength and the expanding reach of our statewide impact. The year marked steady financial and programmatic advancement across all major initiatives.

The IOLA grant remained a cornerstone of NYSDRA's operations, supporting equitable access to mediation services and the statewide Community Dispute Resolution Center network. Alongside IOLA, programs such as AmeriCorps, Lemon Law Arbitration, and Special Education Mediation continued to anchor operations with consistent, mission-driven funding that supports community engagement and access to justice.

New progress was also seen across Early Intervention and ACCES-VR mediation services, which strengthened NYSDRA's partnerships with state agencies and deepened our role in supporting vulnerable populations. These programs reflect the organization's growing capacity to deliver specialized, high-quality ADR services statewide. Overall, FY2025 reflects a year of growth, diversification, and momentum. NYSDRA remains well-positioned for continued expansion—advancing its mission to make dispute resolution services accessible, effective, and sustainable for all New Yorkers.



NYSDRA Statewide ADR Programs

ACCES-VR Mediation

Community Mediation Service Corps
(AmeriCorps)

Early Intervention Mediation

IOLA Initiatives

Lemon Law Arbitration

Special Education Mediation

Disability-Related Mediation Programming

(ACCES-VR, Early Intervention & Special Education)

ACCES-VR Mediation Program

Adult Career and Continuing Education Services-Vocational Rehabilitation (ACCES-VR) starts with the presumption that all individuals with disabilities can benefit from vocational rehabilitation services and should have opportunities to work in jobs integrated within their communities. Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors guide individuals through service programs they need to reach their employment goal.

- The mediator helps to clarify the interests of the parties, which improves communication;
- Each person will have an equal opportunity to express viewpoints and concerns;
- Possible resolutions, within federal and state regulations, will be explored;
- In many cases, the mediator is able to help develop a solution that is acceptable to both parties; and
- Brings together the consumer and an ACCES-VR representative to share concerns and points of disagreement.

Early Intervention Mediation Program

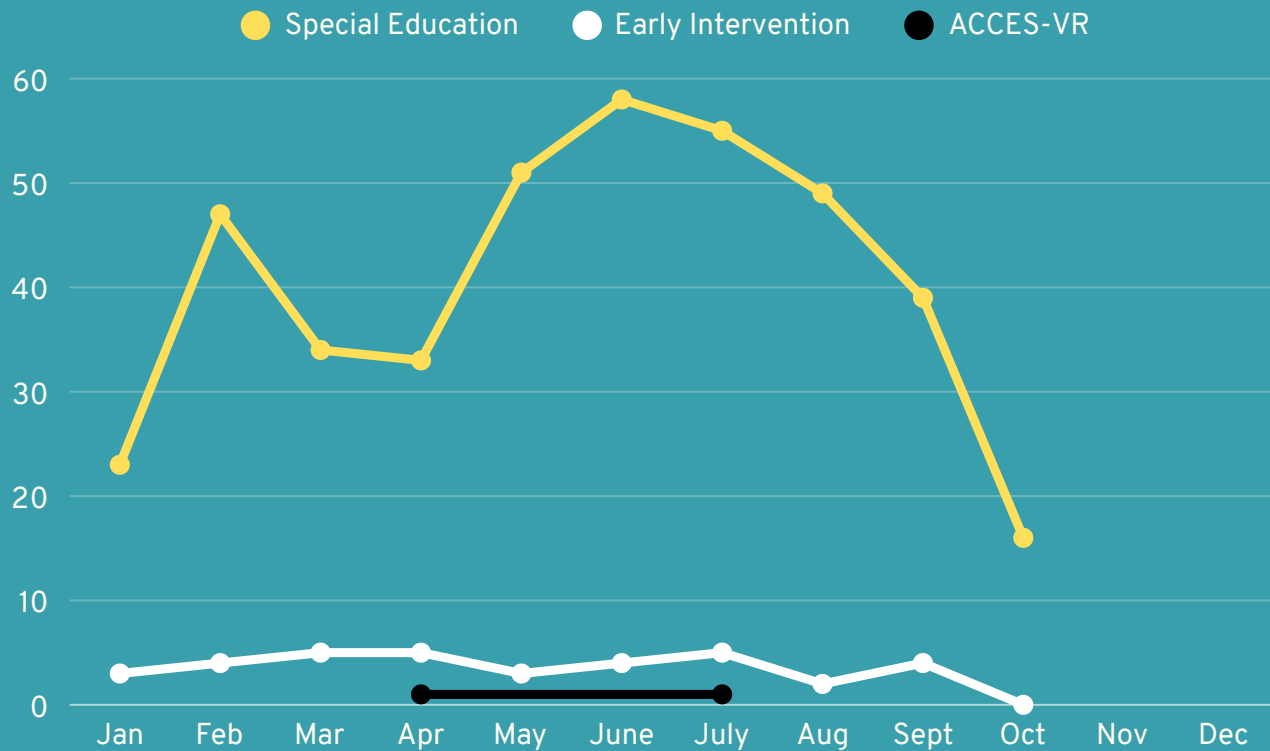
The Early Intervention Mediation Program was established in 1993 to provide services for infants and toddlers, ages 0-3 years old, with developmental delay or disabilities and their families. Title II-A of Article 25 of the Public Health Law establishes the right of a parent who disagrees with the determination of an evaluator or Early Intervention official to mediation and/or an impartial hearing to resolve their dispute.

- Your Initial Service Coordinator (ISC) will talk with you about your concerns for your child's development;
- They will also explain how your health insurance can be used and that early intervention services will be at no cost to you;
- Help you resolve any problems that might come up, including disagreements about the service(s) your child might need;
- The Individualized Family Service Plan, or IFSP, is a written plan that will be specially designed for you, your child, and your family that outlines and explains the EI services your child and family will receive;
- A transition plan must be developed for all children leaving the EIP, including going to Preschool Special Education or other services, on or close to their third birthday.

Special Education Mediation Program

Special education mediation is a resource for parents of children with disabilities and school representatives to work out differences in a collaborative way. Mediation is a voluntary, confidential process facilitated by a qualified, impartial mediator. It provides a safe space where parents and schools are empowered to develop agreements focused on the best interest of the child.

- Mediation is free to the parent and school district;
- The mediator helps to clarify the interests of the parties, which improves communication;
- The mediator helps identify the sources of the conflict and addresses underlying issues;
- The parties agree to solutions they create, increasing the likelihood of compliance;
- Mediations are less expensive, less negative, and are resolved faster than impartial hearings; and
- The goal is to reach a mutually acceptable agreement which is legally binding and enforceable in court.



TOTAL DISABILITY MEDIATION CASES PER MONTH IN 2025

Disability Mediation Program Statistics

- While the amount of cases received per month may fluctuate, the Special Education mediation program continues to manage roughly 400 cases per year.
- The Special Education program receives more cases than any other program that NYSDRA manages.
- The majority of the disability mediation cases received through this program are based in Kings and New York counties.
- The majority of the mediations at the CDRCs are held virtually, though all of the centers still offer in-person mediations.
- On average, a Special Education case takes approximately 45 days to reach a resolution. This timeframe includes the acceptance of the case by the CDRC, the scheduling of the mediation, the mediation itself and the rendering of the mediation agreement.
- Some cases may settle prior to mediation, without a mediation agreement.

NYSDRA's Administration of the New York State Lemon Law Arbitration Program

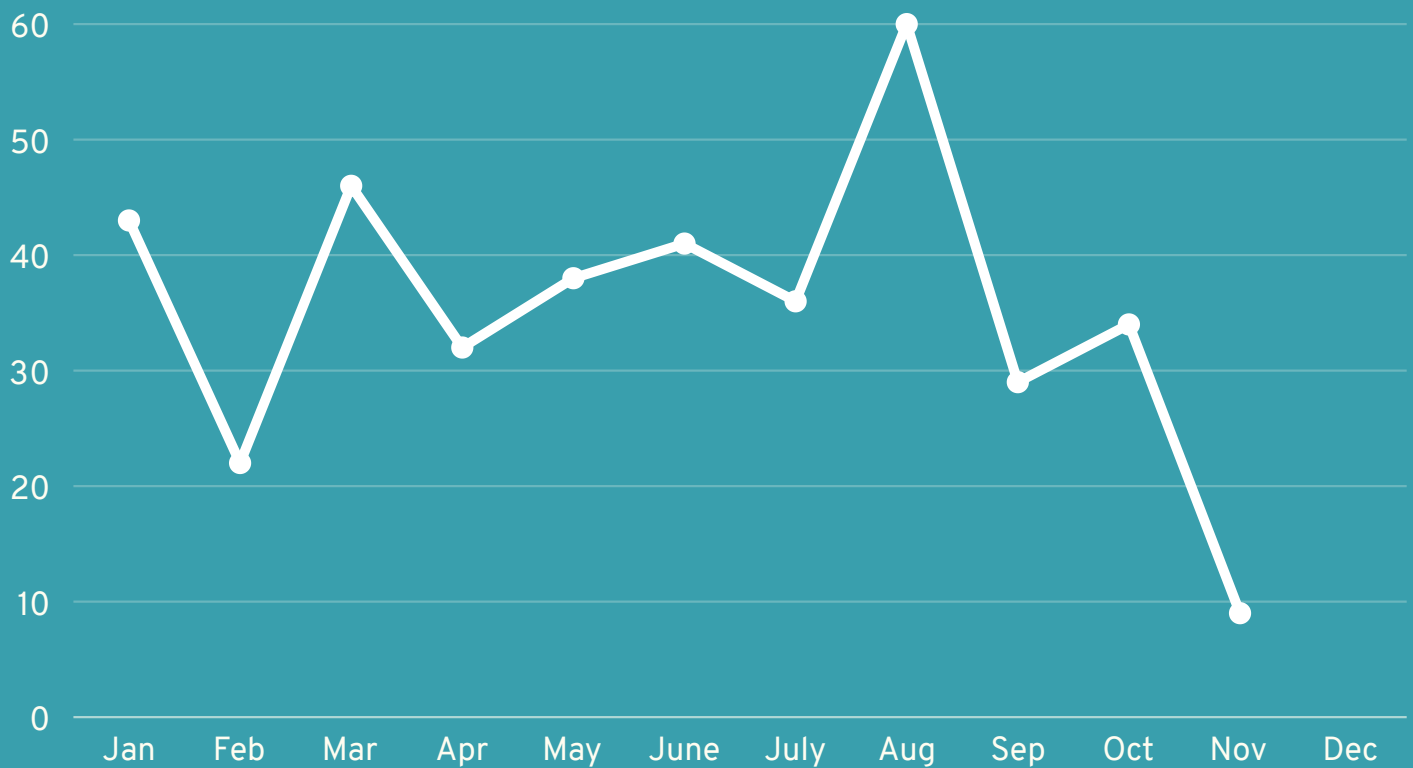
New York State has strong consumer protection laws—known as the New Car, Used Car, Wheelchair, and Farm Equipment Lemon Laws—that provide recourse for consumers who purchase or lease a vehicle or covered equipment that repeatedly fails to meet the terms of the written warranty. When a manufacturer or its authorized dealer cannot repair the defect after a reasonable number of attempts, buyers may be entitled to relief, including a refund or replacement.

NYSDRA is proud to administer the state's Lemon Law Arbitration Program on behalf of the New York State Office of the Attorney General (OAG). While other entities may offer mediation or arbitration options, the program administered through NYSDRA is the only one that operates under the authority of the Attorney General. As a result, arbitration decisions issued through this program carry the full weight of the State of New York and are legally binding and enforceable.



One of the program's greatest strengths is its accessibility. Participation is not dependent on whether a dealer, manufacturer, or leasing company is affiliated with the Attorney General's program. If a consumer has a qualifying claim, the business is subject to the arbitration process—any dealer or manufacturer in New York State can be required to participate, even if they have never interacted with the program before.

To qualify, the vehicle or equipment must simply be purchased or registered in New York State, making the program widely available to consumers throughout the state. By administering this program, NYSDRA provides an efficient, neutral, and affordable pathway to resolution—ensuring that New Yorkers can enforce their rights without navigating the court system.



TOTAL LEMON LAW CASES PER MONTH IN 2025

Lemon Law Arbitration Program Statistics

- While the amount of cases received per month may fluctuate, the Lemon Law program continues to manage approximately 400 cases per year.
- In 2023, the Lemon Law program was expanded to include Farm Equipment. Consumers are now able to seek relief for defective farm equipment, though the farm equipment must have been purchased new.
- The majority of the Lemon Law cases received through this program are based in Nassau and Suffolk counties. (Those counties combined have received over 900 cases since 2017.)
- The majority of the arbitrations at the CDRCs are held virtually, though all of the centers still offer in-person hearings.
- In 2024, the Lemon Law arbitration program recovered over \$12M for consumers through settlements and arbitrations combined.
- In 2025, the Lemon Law arbitration program accepted more cases than any other year in the program's history.
- NYSDRA has served as the program's administrator since 1996, almost 30 years ago.

NYSDRA's AmeriCorps Program

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Community Mediation Service Corps (CMSC)

The Community Mediation Service Corps (CMSC) is funded by AmeriCorps and administered by NYSDRA in partnership with New York's Community Dispute Resolution Centers (CDRCs). The program cultivates the next generation of community-based conflict resolution practitioners through structured training, mentoring, and hands-on service.

Each service year (September–August), CMSC Members are placed at CDRC host sites across New York State. Members work directly with their Host Site Supervisors to support the unique needs of the community where they serve. While the focus of their day-to-day work varies by location, every Member participates in one of three AmeriCorps service tracks:

AmeriCorps Program Tracks

1. Youth Services Conflict Resolution Specialist
2. Capacity Building Specialist
3. Family Services Specialist (including Custody/Visitation cases)



Regardless of track, all CMSC Members receive extensive training to build their competencies as mediators and conflict resolution practitioners. Training combines foundational ADR skills with specialized learning experiences and supervised practice.

Training Opportunities Include:

- Initial Mediation Training
- Conflict Coaching
- Restorative Circles
- Custody & Visitation Mediation

Through this combination of service, mentoring, and skills development, CMSC Members support conflict resolution services in their host communities while developing pathways to careers in Alternative Dispute Resolution.

2025 CMSC Program Host Sites & Their Members

community dispute resolution center

**CDRC**

Ren Constas
Sean Sung
Brian Young



DISPUTE RESOLUTION CENTER

**Dispute Resolution
Center**

Marsha Fincher
Faith Supple

**Community Mediation
Center**

Latisha Butler

**Long Island Dispute
Resolution Center**

Sophie Muhlbauer

**Community
Mediation Services**

Natalia Lopez
Julio Valerio

**Mediation Matters**

Caitlin Monjeau

**CLUSTER**

Elianny Martinez
Maria Ortiz-Rendon
Jill Samuels
Brandon Sanchez

**New York Peace
Institute**

Peter James

Community Mediation Service Corps (CMSC) AmeriCorps Events

**Martin Luther King Jr.
Day of Service
January 20, 2025**

In honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy, AmeriCorps Members across New York participated in the National Day of Service, transforming the holiday into a day on rather than a day off. Dr. King's vision of justice, community, and nonviolence aligns closely with the values of dispute resolution and service to others.



CMSC Members marked the day by engaging in community projects that address local needs—demonstrating Dr. King's belief that “everyone can be great, because everyone can serve.” Through service, Members advance NYSDRA's mission by strengthening communities, supporting civic engagement, and working toward a more just and peaceful society.

**“I Love My Park” Day
May 2, 2025**



Jim Fitzgerald of Mediation Matters w/
Community Volunteers

AmeriCorps Members from NYSDRA's Community Mediation Service Corps joined thousands of volunteers statewide for “I Love My Park” Day, New York's largest single-day volunteer event. Each year, the event mobilizes community members to care for state parks, historic sites, and public lands.

CMSC Members participated alongside park staff, local officials, and community volunteers to complete projects such as planting flowers, clearing trails, painting signs, and shoreline clean-up. The day celebrates environmental stewardship and community pride, while giving Members the opportunity to connect with local leaders and engage in hands-on service outside the mediation room.



The interest on IOLA accounts is pooled and provides the money for grants made by the Board of Trustees of the IOLA Fund to non-profit civil legal services providers across the state. IOLA's current two-year grant cycle will provide \$70 million in grants for providers of civil legal aid to low-income New Yorkers, furthering the goal of equal access to justice for all.

Thanks to IOLA, NYSDRA and the CDRCs collectively served more than 51,000 New Yorkers through over 19,000 cases in FY2024, providing timely, accessible, and community-based dispute resolution services that offer an alternative to litigation and promote peaceful resolution of conflict.

IOLA Grant Initiatives @ NYSDRA

The IOLA grant provides critical support that enables NYSDRA to strengthen New York's statewide network of Community Dispute Resolution Centers (CDRCs) and expand access to justice for all New Yorkers. IOLA funding allows NYSDRA to:

- Subgrant funds to the CDRCs to support mediator recruitment, training, and community outreach efforts.
- Ensure language access by funding statewide LanguageLine services so residents can participate in mediation regardless of the language they speak.
- Invest in technology that improves service delivery, including development and implementation of the Online Contract Reporting System (OCRS), which reduced administrative processing time by over 90% and strengthened data accuracy across all programs.
- Support professional development and training, including Basic Mediation Training, advanced skills workshops, and continuing education programs for volunteers, mediators, and legal professionals.
- Enhance community awareness of dispute resolution services through outreach and education, including digital marketing campaigns and legal information resources to help individuals understand their options.
- Maintain and expand collaborative partnerships with courts, state agencies, community organizations, and legal service providers to ensure that mediation services are integrated into New York's broader access-to-justice system.

NYSDRA's Special Education Mediation Program

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Special Education Dispute Resolution Center



NFY2025 marked the successful completion of the first year of NYSDRA's five-year contract with the New York State Education Department's Office of Special Education to establish and operate the Special Education Dispute Resolution Center (SEDRC).

In its first year, SEDRC laid the foundation for a more accessible and coordinated statewide mediation system. The Center launched a virtual hub for professional development, providing training and resources to special education mediators and stakeholders; implemented a centralized intake and case management system for mediation requests across New York; administered reimbursement of mediation costs to Community Dispute Resolution Centers (CDRCs); and began collecting and reporting statewide mediation data—a first for the field in New York.

During the 2024–25 school year, CDRCs played a critical role in supporting families and schools. Across New York State, they responded to 544 requests for mediation, resulting in 258 mediations held, with 165 resulting in a signed mediation agreement. These mediations helped schools and families engage in constructive dialogue and resolve disputes collaboratively and efficiently.

As SEDRC enters its second year, the focus shifts to continued capacity-building, increased awareness of mediation as an option, and strengthening collaboration between families, educators, and dispute resolution centers—ensuring that students receive the support they need to thrive.

For more information, contact the SEDRC team at NYSDRA:

Bobbie Dillon, Project Director
Shari Greenleaf, Project Associate
Paula Dischinger-Miranda, Project Associate
1-855-RESOLVE (1-855-737-6583)



NYSDRA's 2025 Legacy Conference

Reflect. Celebrate. Advance.

September 25 & 26, 2025

2025 Keynote Speakers



Dr. Sukhsimranjit Singh

Robert A. Baruch Bush, J.D.

Daniel Kos

The New York State Dispute Resolution Association (NYSDRA) proudly marked its 40th anniversary with a milestone legacy conference that brought together professionals, practitioners, and changemakers from across New York State. The event was a powerful celebration of four decades of advancing equitable, accessible, and innovative dispute resolution practices.

Throughout the conference, attendees reflected on NYSDRA's remarkable journey and the evolution of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) across the state. Together, we looked back to learn from the past, celebrated the partnerships and community impact that have defined our work, and explored new ways to advance justice for all New Yorkers.

The first day of the conference was a virtual celebration, bringing together ADR practitioners, mediators, arbitrators and CDRC staff to discuss the past, present and future of ADR. The first day of the conference was highlighted by two keynote speakers, Dr. Sukhsimranjit Singh who discussed the concept of reflection on a global scale and Robert A. Baruch Bush, J.D. who presented the moral dimensions of mediation as taught to him by his friend and mentor, Len Riskin.

Day two of the conference took place at The Desmond Hotel in Albany, NY and was highlighted by keynote speaker Daniel Kos, Statewide ADR Coordinator at the New York State Unified Court System's Division of Alternative Dispute Resolution. Dan presented a statewide perspective on where we've been, where we're heading, and how we can continue to build the field of court-based conflict resolution.



Executive Director Theresa Hobbs presents the Lawrence Cooke Peace Innovator Award to John S. Kiernan, Esq.

On Day Two of the NYSDRA Legacy Conference, NYSDRA had the honor of presenting the Lawrence Cooke Peace Innovator Award to John S. Kiernan, Esq. during a special evening ceremony at the Desmond Hotel in Albany, NY.

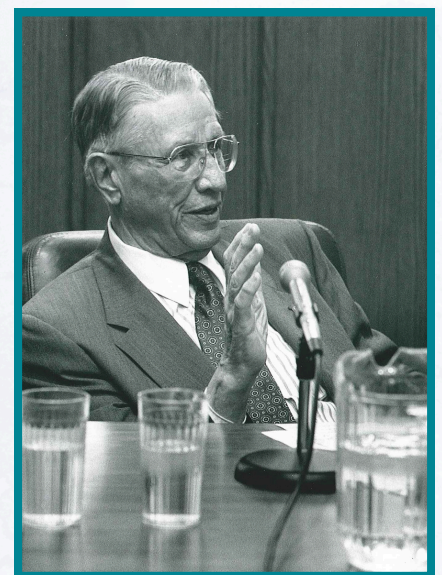
John is a nationally respected leader in the field of dispute resolution and a steadfast advocate for expanding access to justice. Throughout his career, he has championed the use of alternative dispute resolution as a fair, efficient, and constructive path for resolving conflict.

He currently serves as Co-Chair of the New York Chief Judge's Advisory Committee on Alternative Methods of Dispute Resolution and as a member of the New York State Permanent Commission on Access to Justice, where his leadership continues to shape and advance ADR statewide.

About the Lawrence Cooke Peace Innovator Award

The Lawrence Cooke Peace Innovator Award was created to honor individuals and organizations that have provided innovative leadership in the field of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR). This award was named after The Honorable Chief Judge Lawrence H. Cooke, who was influential in promoting the field of alternative dispute resolution in the NYS Court system.

At the annual NYSDRA Conference, NYSDRA honors an individual or organization that has provided innovative leadership in the field, based upon a local or NYS state-based initiative, innovative in terms of a new practice in ADR or application of ADR practices in a new area, setting or population.



The Honorable Chief Judge Lawrence H. Cooke

2025 Legacy Conference Speakers

Harold Abramson, Esq.	John Lande, J.D., Ph.D.
Kare Andolina Scott, J.D.	Carol Liebman, J.D.
Halley Anolik, Esq.	Arthur Matthews, J.D.
Quianna Bennett	Shira May, Ph.D.
Dan Berstein	John McCullough
Austin Bunn	Sabrina Morrissey, Esq.
Robert A. Baruch Bush, J.D.	Bridget M. O'Connell, Esq.
Kailani Capote	Hillary Packer, Esq.
Karen Carroll, J.D.	Subrata Paul, Esq.
Charlotte Carter, J.D.	Alexander Paykin, Esq.
Courtney Chicvak, Esq.	Cai Phillips-Jones, J.D.
Thomas Christian, Ph.D.	Tia Pressey, Ph.D.
Mark Collins	Bobby Preti
Orla Connolly	Deborah Rosenthal, Esq.
Chris Daly, Esq.	Sarah Rudgers-Tysz, Esq.
Bobbie L. Dillon, M.S.	Amber Russell
Marcy Einhorn, Esq.	Susan E. Salazar, Esq.
Kamella English, Esq.	Judy Saul
Shari Greenleaf, J.D.	Suzanne K. Shafer, M.A.
Krysta Hartley	Sukhsimranjit Singh, Ph.D.
Lisa Hicks-Yackel	Jennifer Svensson
Carol Himes	Andrew Thomas
Marshay Hines	Gina Tinker-Williams
Tracey Johnson	Ronald J. Vero
Daniel Kos	Maria Volpe, Ph.D.
Hon. Judge Ray Kramer	Robyn Weinstein
Love Odih Kumuyi	Carolyn Wolf, Esq.
Homer La Rue, Esq.	Katherine Wurmfeld, Esq.

Honorary Committee Members

Hon. Lawrence K. Marks
Hon. Jaclyn A. Brilling
Hon. Randolph F. Treece
Hyacinth Charles
John Harrison
Wilma Jozwiak
Jonathan Murray
Love Odih Kumuyi
Alison Ritchie
Niki Rowe
Will Sawma
Bernadette Tracy, Ph.D.

2025 Legacy Conference Committee

Alison Ritchie, Committee Chair
Wilma Jozwiak, NYSDRA Board Member
Jonathan Murray, NYSDRA Board President
Mary Murray, NYSDRA Board Treasurer
Gina Tinker-Williams, CDRC
Debbie Smith, Volunteer
Theresa Hobbs, NYSDRA Executive Director

Organizational Partners

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Fullness of Joy Photography, LLC

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Mediation
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ADR Notable
Association for Conflict Resolution:
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Center for Justice Innovation
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Empire Justice Center
Fisher Law Practice, P.C.
Fullness of Joy Photography
JAMS Alternative Dispute Resolution
Jedi Ark Corp.
Mediation Matters
New Justice Conflict Resolution Services
New York Center for Interpersonal Development
New York State Agricultural Mediation Program
New York State Council on Divorce Mediation
New York State Department of Health
Ray Crollary Initiative
Sinclair Broadcasting Group
Stewart's Shops
UNSILOED

Honoring a Legacy

The Lawrence H. Cooke Dispute Resolution Legacy Fund

Chief Judge Lawrence H. Cooke (1914–2000) was a visionary leader whose commitment to justice reshaped how conflict is resolved in New York State. During his tenure, Judge Cooke championed the idea that New Yorkers should be able to address conflict quickly, fairly, and locally—without unnecessary barriers. His leadership led to the creation of New York’s first Community Dispute Resolution Centers (CDRCs), which have since become a national model for community-based conflict resolution.

Judge Cooke believed deeply in the dignity and worth of every person who walks through the courthouse door. His legacy helped shift the culture of the legal system by elevating alternative dispute resolution (ADR) as a credible, community-centered option—one that reduces conflict, restores relationships, and promotes access to justice.

The Lawrence H. Cooke Dispute Resolution Legacy Fund honors this history and ensures that Judge Cooke’s vision continues to guide the future of ADR in New York. The Legacy Fund supports the statewide network of CDRCs, helping ensure that mediation and conflict resolution services remain accessible, inclusive, and free of financial barriers for individuals, families, and communities.

This fund represents more than philanthropy—it represents a shared commitment to keep Judge Cooke’s pioneering work alive, and to carry his belief forward:

Justice is strengthened when people are given the tools to resolve conflict respectfully and peacefully.

Individuals or organizations wishing to support the Legacy Fund may contact NYSDRA at info@nysdra.org for more information.

Official campaign launch: December 1, 2025.



NYSDRA Program Staff

Don Raiano

Lemon Law Arbitration
Program Manager

~

Bobbie Dillon

Special Education Program
Project Director

~

Shari Greenleaf

Special Education Program
Project Associate

~

Paula Miranda

Special Education Program
Project Associate

~

Toni Garner

Community Mediation Service Corps
(AmeriCorps)
Program Associate

~

Luke Roe

Fiscal & Contract
Management Associate

~

Lynne Ronesi

Program Associate



NYSDRA 2025 Board of Directors



Jonathan Murray
President



Dr. Shira May
Vice President



Wilma Jozwiak
Secretary



Mary Murray
Treasurer



Back row, left to right: John Harrison; Donna Ramlow, Past President; Jonathan Murray, President; Niki Lee Rowe; Alison Ritchie; Will Sawma; Kim Reisch; Wilma Jozwiak, Secretary; Love Odih Kumuyi, Esq.; Theresa Hobbs, Executive Director

Seated, left to right: Shira May, Vice President; Bernadette Tracy, Immediate Past President; Mary Murray

Not pictured: Denise Ellison; Gregg Scheiner

Board Members

Bernadette Tracy, Ph.D., Immediate Past President

Donna Ramlow, Past President

Denise Ellison

John Harrison

Wilma Jozwiak

Love Odih Kumuyi, Esq.

Alison Ritchie

Niki Lee Rowe

Gregg A. Scheiner

Will Sawma

NYSDRA Advisory Board



**The Honorable Lawrence K. Marks
(Chair)**



T. Andrew Brown, Esq.



Courtney Bryan, Esq.



Ross J. Kartez, Esq.



Maria R. Volpe, Ph.D.

The NYSDRA Advisory Board plays a vital role in shaping the direction and impact of our organization. Composed of experienced professionals, thought leaders, and dedicated advocates from across the dispute resolution field, the Advisory Board offers invaluable insight and guidance to support NYSDRA's mission. Their expertise helps inform strategic initiatives, strengthen programs, and expand outreach efforts to better serve communities throughout New York State. By fostering collaboration and innovation, the Advisory Board ensures that NYSDRA continues to lead in promoting peaceful conflict resolution and access to justice for all.

Thank You to Our Members

NYSDRA members play a vital role in fostering peaceful resolutions across New York State. Through their expertise, compassion, and dedication, they advance the principles of fairness and understanding in every aspect of their work—whether through mediation, arbitration, or restorative justice practices. Their efforts empower individuals and communities to navigate conflict constructively, enhance access to justice, and support those most in need. From family disputes to workplace challenges, NYSDRA members promote collaboration and healing across diverse settings. Their unwavering commitment strengthens the dispute resolution field and creates a lasting, positive impact on the lives of New Yorkers.

Craig Atlas
Helaine Atlas
Stephanie Baldwin
Tamar Barbash
Brian Benevento
Yaneev Bentov
Fredrica Berger
Lewis Bernstein
Deb Best
Sunil Bhatia
Jaclyn Brilling
Mitch Bullene
Vaughn Burgess
Latisha Butler
Penny Calyer
Natasha Carrasquillo
Jeanette Carrington
Karen Carroll
Hailee Catalano
Deanna Cepeda
Ally Chemtob
Katie Cole
Tracy Colvard
Ren Constas
Susanne Corrigan
Todd Cucchiara, J.D.
Brent Cutler
Khadine De Paiva
Rebecca Doran

Donna Durbin
Marcy Einhorn
Nathalie Elivert
Marissa Engel
Henry Fellows
Tahanie Fenelon
Tara Fishler
LJ Freitag
Elizabeth Grossman
Tina Hager
Gerard Haskins
Todd Higgins
Carol Horn
Robin Ireland
Jacqueline James
Maryann Joyner
Wilma Jozwiak
Amber Kane
Michael Kaplen
Shalini Khan
Wendy Knight
Paul Korotkin
Joel Kullas
Darlene LaFave
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Support NYSDRA: Make an Impact Today

At the New York State Dispute Resolution Association (NYSDRA), we believe that every New Yorker should have access to a fair, respectful, and efficient process for resolving conflict. Your support strengthens New York's statewide network of Community Dispute Resolution Centers (CDRCs) and helps train skilled mediators who assist individuals, families, and communities every day.

Your donation directly expands access to mediation and conflict resolution services for families, youth, neighbors, and small businesses, offering people a constructive path forward and helping reduce stress, confusion, and uncertainty during difficult situations. Together, we ensure that more New Yorkers have a place to turn when they need help working through conflict and finding resolution.

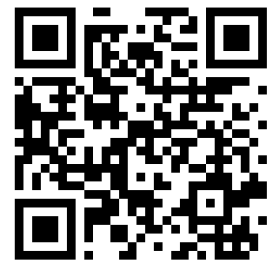
How Your Gift Makes a Difference

No matter the amount, your donation directly impacts real people in need of mediation, conflict resolution, and restorative justice programs.

- ★ \$200 provides mediation training for a community member so they can help resolve local conflicts and strengthen neighborhood relationships.
- ★ \$500 supports a peer mediation program in a school, helping students resolve conflicts peacefully, reduce bullying, and foster collaboration.
- ★ \$1,000 funds a restorative justice session to divert a young person from the criminal justice system, giving them a second chance and preventing future incarceration.
- ★ \$5,000 helps launch a violence prevention and intervention initiative, providing mediation services to de-escalate high-stakes disputes in vulnerable communities.

Your contribution, no matter the size, brings hope, healing, and positive change. Whether you give \$10, \$25, or \$100, you are helping NYSDRA provide vital conflict resolution services that keep individuals, families, and communities safe.

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