

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS – COURT-APPOINTED NEUTRALS FOR HURRICANE IDA STREAMLINED SETTLEMENT PROCESS

In February 2024, the United States District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana approved Case Management Order No. 1, setting forth streamlined mediation and settlement conference protocol (the “SSP”) for Hurricane Ida cases. Implementation of the SSP requires the appointment by the Court of a panel of neutrals consisting of independent mediators. To date, approximately 700 cases are subject to the Hurricane Ida CMO. Accordingly, the Court is preparing to appoint the panel of neutrals and is inviting qualified mediators to apply for consideration.

To be considered for appointment as a mediator, a person must be admitted to practice in the Middle District of Louisiana, and in good standing / current with admission fees. In addition, the person must have the following qualifications:

- 1) A person must:
 - a. have completed a minimum of 40 classroom hours of training in mediation in a course conducted by an individual or organization approved by the MCLE Committee or the ADR Section of the Louisiana State Bar Association,¹ and
 - b. be licensed to practice law in Louisiana for not less than five years; **or**
- 2) A person must:
 - a. have served as a Louisiana state or federal judge (magistrate, district, appellate, or supreme court) for at least six years, and
 - b. no longer be serving as a judge.

By applying for inclusion on the panel of neutrals, an applicant is confirming the following:

- 1) The applicant will abide by a fee structure limiting panel members to charge the parties no more than \$400/hour and will keep contemporaneous time records in ¼ hour increments,
- 2) will make themselves available for a high volume of Hurricane Ida mediations over the course of the next two years,
- 3) possesses the technical capabilities to conduct remote mediations, **and**
- 4) is conflict-free, *i.e.*, does not have a Hurricane Ida claim and does not currently represent or have plans to represent litigants (including claimants and insurers) who are likely to have Hurricane Ida cases.

¹ Any prior mediation training approved by the MCLE Committee satisfies the requirements of this section.

Applicants must apply by letter, attaching a resume or other proof of qualification. Applications must be sent to Ida@lamd.uscourts.gov in .pdf form **NO LATER THAN March 22, 2024.**