

QUARTER 4 OCTOBER - DECEMBER

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## Reflecting on a Sucessful Year of Advancing Our Mission

As we approach the end of 2024, the AAA-ICDR Foundation reflects on a successful year of advancing our mission to support the prevention and resolution of conflicts by expanding access to alternative dispute resolution (ADR). We are deeply grateful for our partners and donors who make our work possible. Below, we share some of the highlights from the year's final quarter.

#### ODR Party Engagement Project (OPEN) – User Testing Insights

We are pleased to share an update on the Foundation-funded ODR Party Engagement (OPEN) Project by The Resolution Systems Institute (RSI). Recently, RSI completed user testing research to assess participants' experiences with model court communication materials. The insights gained are shaping Courts' approaches to improving online dispute resolution (ODR) systems and ensuring they are more accessible, effective, and user-friendly.



To learn more about the testing process and what we've learned from participants, click here.



Western Justice Center Peer Mediation Invitational Volunteer Opportunity

We are excited to announce the **20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** of the Peer Mediation Invitational (PMI) by one of our grantees, the **Western Justice Center**. Taking place in Los Angeles in February 2025, this annual event empowers young people with the tools to resolve conflicts through restorative approaches.

As part of this important event, if you are in the Los Angeles area, we invite you to **sign up to be a Mediation Mentor**. Mentors will provide coaching and feedback to students during mock mediation practice sessions. These students, ranging from beginner conflict solvers to experienced peer mediators, need your guidance and expertise.

By mentoring, you will play a key role in shaping the next generation of conflict resolution leaders.

#### AAA Diverse Student Summit

This November, the AAA proudly hosted the **AAA Diverse Student Summit** in New York City. Twenty-three law students gathered for a weekend focused on what it takes to become a successful arbitrator and mediator. The summit provided an in-depth look into ADR, with students engaging in valuable discussions and networking opportunities. The Foundation, through our Diversity Scholarship program, provided each of the participants a stipend to cover travel and lodging.

A special thank you to the speakers who generously shared their time and career experiences with the students. Your contributions make a lasting impact on the future of our profession.



The Foundation was excited to welcome all six Foundation HBCU Diversity Scholars to the event.



#### Democracy Innovations Workshop

On October 22, AAA-ICDR Foundation Board Chair Bruce Meyerson attended the Democracy Innovations Workshop, hosted by Foundation grantee the **National Civic League**, in Phoenix, Arizona. This impactful event brought together civic leaders nationwide for a day of discussion, learning, and collaboration. The workshop aimed to:

- Understand and communicate the benefits of a more robust democracy.
- Evaluate local democratic practices and measure progress.
- Explore tools and strategies to engage residents.
- Develop long-term plans to strengthen democracy and civic health.

#### Foundation and AAA Welcome READ Alliance Teen Leaders

The AAA-ICDR Foundation and the AAA hosted 25 inspiring teen leaders from **READ Alliance** for an immersive training session on conflict resolution. The students explored essential skills in mediation and negotiation aimed at fostering peace and understanding within their communities. As part of the event, the teens were provided the unique opportunity to join a reception for the AAA Diverse Student Summit. This experience highlighted the AAA's and the Foundation's dedication to empowering the next generation of leaders.



We look forward to exploring opportunities to bring these democracy-strengthening programs to new communities. If you want to learn more about bringing the **Democracy Innovations** program to your area, please contact **Matt Leighninger**, Director, Center for Democracy Innovation for further details.

#### SUPPORT THE FOUNDATION'S MISSION: DONATE TODAY

Reflecting on the work we accomplished in 2024, the need for continued support for the AAA-ICDR Foundation's mission is ever more critical. With conflicts worldwide, our work in expanding access to ADR remains vital to global peace and stability.

If you're inspired by our progress this year and would like to make an additional contribution to help further the Foundation's mission, **please click here to donate**.

We are incredibly grateful to all our partners, donors, and supporters who make our work possible. We look forward to the opportunities that 2025 will bring. Thank you for your continued commitment to advancing ADR and conflict resolution.

**DONATE NOW** 

# Wishing you a joyful and peaceful holiday season from all of us at the AAA-ICDR Foundation.

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