

## FOREWORD

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The American Arbitration Association and its international division, the International Centre for Dispute Resolution, announced the establishment of the AAA-ICDR Foundation in May 2015.

Since that time, the Foundation's Board of Directors: James E. Coleman, Jr., Eric D. Green, James R. Jenkins, India Johnson, John J. Kerr, Jr., Carolyn Lamm, Francis McGovern, Bruce Meyerson, Scott S. Partridge, Lawrence Susskind, and Edna Sussman (Chair) along with the Foundation's consultant Marilyn Duffy Grande and AAA volunteer staff have been hard at work.

The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, and is able to solicit donations and provide grants to fund a range of worthy causes that promote the Foundation's wide-reaching mission, which is to support the use and improvement of dispute resolution processes in the USA and internationally, including:

- Fostering measures that reduce potential escalation, manage, and resolve conflicts.
- Expanding the use of dispute resolution processes tailored to the conflict.
- Supporting research, education and initiatives promoting high quality, efficient and fair dispute resolution.
- Increasing access to justice in and through alternative dispute resolution.
- Encouraging collaborative processes to resolve public conflicts.
- Sharing expertise across diverse groups and cultures.
- Partnering with others dedicated to advancing the Foundation's mission.

In 2017 the Foundation announced a special initiative for projects that addressed opportunities for dialogue in situations involving racial, ethnic and religious conflict. And in 2018, announced a focus on innovative and replicable proposals that provide ADR for vulnerable and underserved populations and ADR for community focused dispute resolution. The Foundation also remains committed to funding high quality innovative programs in furtherance of its broader mission

dedicated to mediation/other non-binding ADR process and arbitration/ other binding ADR processes, and beyond.

Through the generous support of the AAA, AAA Panel Member donations and support from corporations and law firms, the Foundation has granted 36 projects for a total of over \$1.1 million. The Foundation expects to announce funded grants from its fourth round of grant proposals in early 2019.

Every year the Foundation receives more and more interest, with over 100 initial grant descriptions collected in the latest round. The Foundation is honored to support these wonderful and much needed works in the alternative dispute resolution field. We hope that you enjoy reading about the projects highlighted in this AAA-ICDR Foundation-focused volume of the *Dispute Resolution Journal*.

To learn more about all of the projects funded by the Foundation, or if you wish to make a donation, please visit [www.aaaicdrfoundation.org](http://www.aaaicdrfoundation.org).

*Edna Sussman,*  
Chair, AAA-ICDR Foundation

*Tracey Frisch,*  
Corporate Secretary, AAA-ICDR Foundation