



AAA® HIGGINBOTHAM FELLOWS PROGRAM

Overview

The AAA® A. Leon Higginbotham, Jr. Fellows Program provides emerging ADR professionals with training, mentorship, networking opportunities. Established in 2009, the Program prepares promising practitioners for future leadership roles in the field of alternative dispute resolution (ADR).

The Program honors the legacy of Judge A. Leon Higginbotham, Jr., a distinguished jurist, educator, civil rights advocate, and humanitarian whose career reflects the values of excellence, fairness, and opportunity.

THE PROGRAM

- Begins with a self-study component
- Includes a week-long, in-person intensive training at AAA's New York office during the week of May 4, 2026
- Includes attendance at select AAA Annual Meeting events

THE MENTORS

- Fellows are matched with AAA panelists aligned with their professional interests
- Mentors provide guidance, networking support, and practical insight

THE CONNECTIONS

- Opportunities to connect with the broader ADR community and engage in discussions on key issues in the field

WHO SHOULD APPLY

The Program is open to lawyers, arbitrators, mediators, and other ADR practitioners who demonstrate:

- Interest and commitment to ADR
- Some experience in ADR, whether as an arbitrator, mediator, advocate, or other practitioner

Applications may reflect qualifications through:

- Professional work
- Pro bono service



- Recommendations
- Academic achievements
- Writing samples or essays
- Professional development plans

PLEASE NOTE

- Applicants must be available to travel to New York for the training week beginning May 4, 2026
- Application deadline: January 26, 2026
- Limited scholarships are available based on financial need
- International applicants must secure their own visa, if required

For more information, visit:

<https://www.adr.org/higginbotham-fellows-program/>