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## **American Arbitration Association® Launches 2022 Higginbotham Fellows Program**

**NEW YORK, N.Y.—May 3, 2022—** The AAA® Higginbotham Fellows Program – offering the full breadth of AAA and International Centre of Dispute Resolution® (ICDR®) resources to diverse participants – begins on May 3, 2022, planned to coincide with the AAA-ICDR® Annual Meeting of the Council and Board of Directors.

This year's graduating class began the program in the fall of 2021 with a three-part self-study component spanning over several months. It was then followed by a four-day intensive interactive training at the AAA's New York headquarters, consisting of seminars on dispute resolution topics taught by leading ADR professionals and participation in mock arbitrations and mediations. AAA Higginbotham Fellows are afforded additional training and networking opportunities throughout the year and are paired with mentors in their field of interest.

The AAA Higginbotham Fellows Program, established in 2009, addresses the dearth of opportunities for diverse professionals to become future ADR leaders. Ingeuneal Gray and Ann Lesser, Vice Presidents and Co-Chairs of AAA's Diversity and Inclusion committee say, "We are proud to graduate our tenth class. The Fellows Program continues to excel and grow each year. Since its inception, the Program has inducted 148 Fellows and almost all Fellows who have applied have advanced to AAA Roster appointment, with a majority selected to serve on cases. Several were elected to the AAA's Council."

In addition to the training, the 2022 Fellows will attend AAA's Annual Meeting Discussion of Initiatives, Annual Luncheon, and Board Dinner.

Fifteen Fellows were selected from around the United States with backgrounds including labor, employment, commercial, construction and international practices. They are:

- **Abdisamed Awed**, Co-Executive Director for Programs and Policy, CRCC, Mediator/Arbitrator; Brooklyn Park, MN
- **Alana Grice Conner**, Partner, Fried, Williams & Grice Conner LLP; Oakland, CA
- **Scott W. Davis**, General Counsel, ms consultants, inc.; Columbus, OH
- **Cherrie K. Fisher**, Arbitrator/Mediator, CKF Consulting; Irving, TX
- **J. Joan Hon**, Assistant Deputy Superintendent, NYS Department of Financial Services; Flushing, NY
- **Crisarla Houston**, Attorney-at-Law, Self-Employed; Waco, TX
- **Allyson Huey**, Manager, Employee & Student Appeals, Baltimore County Public Schools; Towson, MD



- **Knar A. Nahikian**, Attorney, Mediator, Arbitrator, Knar Law & ADR; New York, NY
- **Olga A. Pettigrew**, Senior Counsel, National Grid; Mineola, NY
- **Kelly Ringston**, Partner, Braverman Greenspun, P.C.; Montclair, NJ
- **Peter D. Singh**, Attorney, Fourscore Business Law; Morrisville, NC
- **Jamian Smith**, Managing Director, Arcana Solutions; Mint Hill, NC
- **Radha Thiagarajan**, Partner, KPPB LAW; Houston, TX
- **Stephen Wah**, Managing Associate, Pasich LLP; Ridgewood, NY
- **Shawntane Williams**, Founder, Managing Member, Williams & Associates Law Firm, PLLC; Farmington Hills, MI

### **About the American Arbitration Association**

The not-for-profit American Arbitration Association (AAA) is the leading provider of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) services for parties in commercial disputes, having administered more than seven million ADR cases since its founding in 1926. With 26 offices in the United States, in addition to Mexico, Singapore and Bahrain, the AAA provides organizations of all sizes in virtually every industry with ADR services and products. For more information, visit [www.adr.org](http://www.adr.org).

### **About the International Centre for Dispute Resolution**

The International Centre for Dispute Resolution (ICDR) is the international division of the American Arbitration Association (AAA) and the largest international provider of dispute resolution services. Established in 1996, the ICDR serves parties from over 100 countries with multilingual staff experienced in international dispute resolution proceedings, and a roster of over 725 arbitrators and mediators. For more information, visit [www.icdr.org](http://www.icdr.org).

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