INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR DISPUTE RESOLUTION / AMERICAN ARBITRATION ASSOCIATION CREATES AEROSPACE, AVIATION AND NATIONAL SECURITY PANEL

New York, New York, October 28, 2016 – The International Centre for Dispute Resolution® (ICDR®) and the American Arbitration Association® (AAA®) are pleased to announce the creation of the Aerospace, Aviation and National Security Panel. This unique panel of arbitrators and mediators brings together leading industry experts to deal with complex, high-value aerospace, aviation, defense, cyber and security-related disputes.

“Choosing the right arbitrator may be the single most important decision parties make in the arbitration process,” said India Johnson, AAA/ICDR President and CEO. “That decision is easier, more efficient, and better informed today with the launch of the Aerospace, Aviation and National Security Panel which is intended to be truly international in scope to be used both by domestic and international case managers.”

Stephen Smith, former Vice President and General Counsel of Lockheed Martin Space Systems, currently international arbitration partner at Sherman & Howard in Denver, and a long time member of the Aerospace General Counsel’s Group adds, “This is the first time that the industry can go to one place to find a mediator or arbitrator with years of relevant experience. All of our panelists have significant domestic and international expertise in the industry and have spent much of their career dealing with issues of the type raised in these disputes. I am excited to be part of this dynamic panel.”

Joining Smith as founding panel members are Wolf von Kumberg, former Assistant General Counsel and European Legal Director for Northrop Grumman, and currently a member of the ArbDB Chambers; and Les Schiefelbein, former Vice President and Deputy General Counsel for Lockheed Martin Space Systems, and now CEO of Schiefelbein Global Dispute Resolution.

Peter Kleinschmidt, Senior Legal Advisor to the CEO and former General Counsel of Airbus Group states, “the aerospace, defense and security industry has its own unique features and is technically complex, something that this panel will be well placed to deal with.”

Kellye Walker, Executive Vice President and General Counsel for Huntington Ingalls Industries, America’s largest military shipbuilding company, states, "This new panel will be a resource for government contractors at every tier in identifying arbitrators and mediators with broad industry background. This should reduce the significant learning curve which arbitrators and mediators sometimes have when dealing with complex issues unique to our industry”.

The panel was specifically designed to ensure that only those with significant and relevant industry experience would be listed, enabling parties to appoint a mediator or arbitrator with confidence that the candidate has the appropriate expertise. Members of the panel were picked not just because of
each member’s background with the industry, but also to reflect broad diversity as to nationality, practice, age, and gender, which is the reality of today’s business environment.

Over his career Fred Bennett, international arbitration partner at Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan LLP, has amassed significant experience in constituting tribunals. He observes, “The Aerospace, Aviation and National Security Panel can alleviate some of the costs and delays encountered in dispute management by allowing users to quickly identify an experienced mediator or arbitrator, many of whom hold or have held security clearances and will be familiar with that type of dispute without needing to learn the issues for the first time. The value of the panel in this regard is self-evident.”

About the American Arbitration Association
The not-for-profit American Arbitration Association (AAA) has administered approximately 4.1 million alternative dispute resolution (ADR) cases since its founding. With 23 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.

About the International Centre for Dispute Resolution
As the global component of the American Arbitration Association (AAA), the International Centre for Dispute Resolution (ICDR) is one of the world’s largest providers of arbitral and dispute resolution services. Established in 1996, the ICDR serves parties in more than 90 countries, with a staff fluent in over a dozen languages. Through more than 725 independent arbitrators and mediators, the ICDR provides a flexible, party-centered process over a broad range of industries and geopolitical issues. Its recently revised Rules have once again set a standard for arbitration case management. For more information, visit www.icdr.org.