



Why the AAA's Roster of Arbitrators is Not Publicly Available

The American Arbitration Association (AAA) administers tens of thousands of arbitrations each year. Due to the diversity of the subject matter and the many hearing locations around the US and internationally, the AAA's Roster and the roster of its international division, the International Centre for Dispute Resolution (ICDR), include several thousand arbitrators organized into subject panels such as Technology, Construction, Healthcare and many other domestic and international industries and legal practice areas. Some Panels consist of very small numbers of expert arbitrators in a very narrow subject area while other Panels are large.

Sometimes the parties' arbitration agreement specifies the method for appointing an arbitrator. When the contract is silent and the parties do not otherwise agree on an arbitrator or on a method of appointment, the AAA's Rules generally provide for the AAA to submit a list of proposed arbitrators to each party from its Roster of Arbitrators.

The Roster is maintained for the purpose of offering proposed arbitrators or making administrative appointments on specific cases filed with and administered by the AAA or ICDR. The AAA and ICDR formally train Roster members on their Rules, case administration, and the high standards for and expectations of AAA and ICDR arbitrators. The AAA also expends substantial time and effort recruiting for and maintaining its Roster of Arbitrators, including creating continuing education programs that AAA arbitrators are required to complete on an annual basis. In addition, the AAA requires its arbitrators to attest each year to specific ethical and other standards in order to remain on the Roster and remain available to serve on cases.

Availability: Not all Roster members are always available for all matters. Roster members are independent and not employees of the AAA, and may accept or decline new cases for any reason, including their engagement on other cases or other work; or an arbitrator may be traveling or otherwise occupied.

The AAA's Roster of Arbitrators is a proprietary database and is not made available to the public at large. However, for non-AAA or ICDR administered cases, parties can utilize the AAA or ICDR Arbitrator Select service which allows parties to find the most appropriate arbitrator for their dispute—without additional administration by the AAA. This allows parties to receive a list of arbitrators whose credentials best match the criteria specified by the parties. Parties can also choose to allow the AAA or ICDR to assist in appointing a mutually agreed upon arbitrator from the list provided.

Creation of lists for AAA or ICDR cases: The staff of the AAA and ICDR create proposed lists of arbitrators for each individual case based on the subject matter of the dispute, locale, and with input from all parties or their counsel. Parties to AAA-ICDR cases may also suggest AAA or ICDR arbitrators to be included on lists by utilizing the AAA and ICDR Arbitrator Search Platforms which allow parties to search the entire Roster. Roster members have accepted service on the AAA and ICDR Rosters knowing that staff may propose them on specific cases. They have not accepted their appointment to the Roster with the understanding that their resumes will be published on a public website.