

The State Bar of Michigan Alternative Dispute Resolution Section Announces 2022 Award Winners

The Alternative Dispute Resolution Section of the State Bar of Michigan is proud to announce that the following individuals are the recipients of the ADR Section's major awards in 2022. The award recipients were honored at the ADR Annual Conference Awards Ceremony held on October 1.



GREGORY CONYERS

Is the recipient of the **Diversity and Inclusion Award**. Greg serves as the Director of Diversity of the State Bar of Michigan. In that role, he has been promoting diversity in the Bar and ADR for over a decade and championing DEI since before it was mainstreamed.



LEE HORNBERGER

Is the recipient of the **Distinguished Service Award**. A former Chair of the ADR Section, Lee has been instrumental in keeping neutrals up to date on relevant law through his yearly case reviews at the Annual Conference and is a regular contributor to Section webinars. In his time since serving as Chair, he has tirelessly promoted the inclusion of women and people of color in the ADR community.



BELINDA DULIN

Is the recipient of the **Nanci S. Klein Award**. Belinda is the Executive Director of the Dispute Resolution Center for Washtenaw and Livingston Counties. She is instrumental in efforts to increase the use of restorative justice practices and principles as part of local efforts to reform the criminal legal system. She also chairs the social justice committee of the Michigan Community Mediation Association.



BETTY R. WIDGEON

Is the recipient of the **George N. Bashara Jr. Award**. As the Immediate Past Chair of the ADR Section, Betty has continued her tremendous work on behalf of the dispute resolution community here in Michigan, while increasing her national recognition as a neutral par excellence.



LISA TIMMONS

Is the recipient of the **Hero of ADR Award**. Lisa is the Executive Director of the Mediation Tribunal Association. She moderated and helped create the "Diversifying the Practice of ADR" presentation at the ADR Section Annual Conference in 2021. She serves on the ADR Section Council and contributes her time to activities that promote the diversification of the legal community.

For more information about the Alternative Dispute Resolution Section of the State Bar of Michigan visit <https://connect.michbar.org/adr/home>.



ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE
RESOLUTION SECTION



Lisa Timmons

Thank you, Lee and the ADR Council, for presenting me with the ADR Hero Award.

Regretfully, I cannot be with you in person tonight. As Erin Archerd coined it, I drew the Covid short straw. So, I am at home on quarantine, but with you in spirit. Three of the Mediation Tribunal Association staff members are present, Cynthia Haynes, Cornelia Allen, and Georgea Cole.

In 1995 I was working as a disability rights advocate for a state mandated legal organization. If we could not resolve a dispute—special education, reasonable accommodations, appropriate support and services, for example at a lower level the issue would frequently end up in litigation. I always believed there should be some intermediate step or process. These cases often involved schools, group homes, families, and caregivers and I felt the process of litigation did more harm than good.

I saw a flyer in the office one day for a Masters program in Dispute Resolution at Wayne State University. It focused on mediation, conflict resolution, dispute system design, and negotiations. This was both new and fascinating to me. I signed up and in 1997 I was a part of the second graduating class in the MADR program at Wayne State.

Shortly after graduation, I was hired as the Executive Director of the Mediation Tribunal. MTA's Board of Directors at that time were Judges Cynthia Stephens, Michael Sapala, the late Julian Cook, and attorneys Brian Einhorn and the late Mark Weiss. The Board allowed me to expand the footprint MTA had in the dispute resolution community by participating on SCAO workgroups and committees to shape and define ADR in Michigan courts, but also to diversify the practice.

This past year I have gladly offered my time to groups that continue in that path. The Diversity and Inclusion Action Team of the ADR Section of the Michigan State Bar has provided opportunities for all of us as both practitioners and consumers of ADR services to grow, expand, question ourselves, and evolve. I am proud to be included in such an important group and honored that practitioners that I admired for many years have embraced me as one of their own.

Thank you again, and let's continue to do the great work of expanding our practice to be one of diversity, inclusion, equity, and fairness.

Lisa