

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: 05/19/00
Janice R. Lachance
Office of Personnel Management (OPM)

EDO CONTROL: G20000184
DOC DT: 03/31/00
FINAL REPLY:

TO:
Agency Heads

FOR SIGNATURE OF : ** GRN ** CRC NO: 00-0237

DESC: OPM Director's Award for Outstanding Alternative
Dispute Resolution Programs (Nominations Due:
5/30/00)

ROUTING:
Travers
Paperiello
Miraglia
Norry
Blaha
Burns

DATE: 04/11/00

ASSIGNED TO: CONTACT:
HR Bird

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

If nominations are made, prepare response for
Chairman's signature.



UNITED STATES
OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT
WASHINGTON, DC 20415-0001

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

MAR 31 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

FROM: JANICE R. LACHANCE
DIRECTOR

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janice R. Lachance".

SUBJECT: OPM Director's Award for Outstanding
Alternative Dispute Resolution Programs

I am pleased to announce the opening of competition for the second annual OPM Director's Award for Outstanding Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Programs. This award was established in 1999 to recognize outstanding Federal agency ADR programs that focus on resolving internal employee workplace disputes. Last year the competition was keen, with organizations from across the country submitting 49 nominations. The competition concluded last July with an awards ceremony in Washington, D.C., featuring Attorney General Janet Reno as the keynote speaker.

We established the Director's Award to support President Clinton's May 1, 1998, memorandum to Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies advocating ADR. The President called on each Federal agency to take steps to promote greater use of mediation, arbitration, early neutral evaluation, agency ombuds, and other alternative dispute resolution techniques. In addition, the President asked the Attorney General to convene an Alternative Dispute Resolution Working Group to facilitate, encourage, and provide coordination to help agencies to establish ADR programs.

To support both the President's directive and the Attorney General's efforts, we initiated the Director's Award to showcase successful ADR programs that are using a variety of innovative techniques to resolve Federal employee workplace disputes more efficiently and effectively than traditional grievance or complaint processes. Outstanding programs are able to demonstrate how a targeted investment of time and resources can return long-term benefits and savings.

The attached materials provide complete information on award program eligibility and selection criteria. Nominations are due by May 30, 2000. If you have any questions, you may contact Mary Giallorenzi or Gary Wahlert of OPM's Employee Relations Division on (202) 606-2920 or via email at mmgiallo@opm.gov or gdwahler@opm.gov.

Attachment

cc: Directors of Personnel
General Counsels
Agency Dispute Resolution Specialists
Offices of Equal Employment Opportunity/Civil Rights

2000 OPM DIRECTOR'S AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROGRAMS

Purpose

The OPM Director's Award for Outstanding ADR Programs is intended to:

- Recognize those Federal organizations that are providing innovative and effective ADR programs;
- Encourage the establishment and improvement of highly effective ADR programs throughout the Government; and
- Publicize exemplary ADR programs so they may serve as models for other Federal agencies.

Scope of Award Program

The use of ADR in workplace disputes increases the parties' opportunities to resolve disputes prior to formal administrative procedures and litigation. ADR is often less costly and time consuming, and can provide long term solutions to employee-employer conflicts through stakeholders' participation and buy-in. In contrast, traditional dispute resolution often imposes a "solution" handed down by a third party, where neither party walks away satisfied, and the disputants' conflict continues or increases. ADR programs often focus on disputes that might otherwise be pursued in the formal equal employment opportunity (EEO) process and typically use the services of a neutral person or persons to help the resolution process. Programs typically identify some process for the retention of neutrals and outstanding programs include some means to evaluate program effectiveness. ADR programs range from the informal to the formal and involve small organizations as well as large.

Nomination Eligibility

Each department and agency may submit an unlimited number of nominations. Nominations may describe an entire agency program, a regional installation program, or a facility-level program. For purposes of this award, each department within the Department of Defense and the Office of the Secretary of Defense is considered a separate agency. Previous recipients of the Director's Award are not eligible for the 2000 Director's Award, i.e., Department of Air Force (Headquarters), Department of Treasury (Bureau of Engraving and Printing), and Department of Air Force (Lackland Air Force Base). Previous recipients in the Honorable Mention category, however, are eligible for consideration.

Selection Criteria

OPM encourages organizations to focus their nominations on those elements of their programs that have made contributions to effective and efficient resolution of workplace disputes and have contributed to organizational effectiveness. The following selection criteria will be applied in assessing award nominations. While nominations should address each of the major criteria in some manner, the questions asked are illustrative only, and responses will vary according to the size and type of agency or organization within an agency that operates the program.

A. Program Development

- Why was the program established and what facilitated its development?
- How were obstacles to development of the program overcome?
- What are the goals and objectives of the program?
- What types of workplace disputes are covered or excluded by the program?
- What type of ADR technique(s), e.g., mediation, does the program use?

B. Program Administration

- How does the program work (procedural steps) for individual disputes?
- How is the program staffed and funded?
- How is the program publicized and its use encouraged (required)?
- How is the program integrated with other programs in your agency, e.g., EAP?
- What internal factors, e.g., budget, affect your program and how?

C. Retention of Neutrals

- What procedures are used by the program to obtain the services of neutrals?
- What criteria does the program use in determining who qualifies as a neutral?
- What are the costs of using neutrals and how are those costs paid?
- How long does it take for neutrals to become involved after their need is established?
- If employee/neutrals are used, how are they trained and what is the training cost?

D. Training

- How are agency personnel trained to recognize when and how to use ADR?
- What processes are in place to assess training needs and how do they work?
- How does the program judge the success of training already provided?
- Who does the training, who receives it, and how are its costs paid?
- How do (could) other agencies or organizations benefit from your training?

E. Program Evaluation and Results

- What types of records are used to ascertain the benefits of ADR?
- What concrete cost-savings, including agency staff time, has the program provided?
- How has the program affected dispute resolution processing times and resolution rates?

- What types of specific positive effects can be attributed to the program?
- How has the program changed the culture of your organization?

Supporting materials which the agency or organization believes will assist in the review of the nomination may be submitted in a file attached to the nomination. Such materials could include policy statements, agency regulations, brochures, illustrations, photographs, presentation slides, awards, newspaper and periodical articles, etc.

Submission of Nominations

Please prepare nominations **in triplicate** using the attached form and submit to:

U.S. Office of Personnel Management
Director's Award for Outstanding Alternative Dispute Resolution Programs
Employee Relations Division
1900 E Street, NW.--Room 7425
Washington, DC 20415-2000

Questions about the nomination process or the award itself may be directed to Mary Giallorenzi or Gary Wahlert of the Employee Relations Division at OPM by telephone at (202) 606-2920 or by email at mmgiallo@opm.gov or gdwahler@opm.gov.

Nominations Due Date

All nominations must be received at OPM by **May 30, 2000**, to ensure sufficient time in which to carefully review, evaluate, and select the most outstanding programs.

Selection of Award Winners

A blue-ribbon panel of judges with backgrounds in ADR will assist OPM by reviewing the nominations and recommending award winners to the Director of OPM. The Director will review these recommendations and make final selections for the awards. The number of awards granted will be determined on the basis of the number and quality of nominations received. Equal consideration will be afforded to both small and large organizations. The winning organizations will receive plaques recognizing their ADR program excellence at a public event in summer 2000.

NOMINATION FORM

OPM DIRECTOR'S AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROGRAMS

Please type all information requested and attach a description of the nominated program **in triplicate**. *The program description should address each of the selection criteria contained in the award announcement.*

1. Nominee

Name of Agency, Department, or Organization

Name of Organization Submitting Nomination

Name of Program Being Nominated

Address

2. Contact Person if Further Information is Needed

Name

Title

Nominations are due by May 30, 2000.

Address

Telephone No.

Fax No.

Email

3. Agency Official to Whom Formal Correspondence is to be Sent

Name

Title

Address

Telephone No.

Fax No.

Email
