

Announces 2020 Award Winners

Join us in congratulating the recipients of the ADR Section's major awards for 2020. The awards will be presented as part of the ADR Conference, Annual Meeting and Section Awards on October 16.



Chief Justice McCormack

The Diversity and Inclusion Award is given in recognition of significant contributions concerning diversity and inclusion in the field of alternative dispute resolution. **Chief Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court, Bridget Mary McCormack**, is the inaugural award recipient.

Chief Justice McCormack became a Michigan Supreme Court Justice in January 2013. She was unanimously elected by her fellow Justices to be the Chief Justice in January 2019. Chief Justice McCormack has made significant contributions concerning diversity and inclusion in the field of alternative

dispute resolution. She helped implement the Online Dispute Resolution initiative in Michigan's courts, launched the Mediation Clinic at Michigan Law School, helped initiate the first expungement clinics in Michigan, helped create Michigan's participation in the Regional Judicial Opioid Initiative, and co-launched the Elder Abuse Taskforce. She spoke at the ADR Section's 2018 and 2019 Annual Meeting and will also be the keynote speaker and a panelist at this year's ADR Conference on October 16-17, 2020.



Jon R. Muth

The Distinguished Service Award is presented to an individual, program, or entity in recognition of significant contributions to the field of dispute resolution. **Jon R. Muth** is the 2020 award recipient.

Jon Muth has been a pioneer of alternative dispute resolution in Michigan, as he was among the few attorneys certified as a federal court mediator by the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Michigan in the inaugural federal program in 1996. Twice retained to conduct the Court's annual CLE program for certified mediators, he also served on the panel of the Federal Judicial

Center mediation training program for federal judges. During his exceptional career he has mediated approximately 1000 disputes. He is a member of the National Academy of Distinguished Neutrals, the Association of Professional Responsibility Counselors, the AAA National Roster of Neutrals for Commercial Arbitration, the Association for Conflict Resolution, and a past President of the State Bar of Michigan. In 1998 Jon received the State Bar's Roberts P. Hudson Award, its highest recognition, given to a member who "best exemplifies that which brings honor, esteem and respect to the legal profession."

For more information about the Alternative Dispute Resolution Section of the State Bar of Michigan and the ADR Conference, Annual Meeting and Section Awards, Oct. 16-17, visit: <https://connect.michbar.org/adr/home>



William D. Gilbride, Jr.

The George M. Bashara Award (the Chair's award) is presented to an individual, program, or entity in recognition of exemplary service to the Section and its members. **William D. Gilbride, Jr.** is the 2020 award recipient.

Since joining the ADR Section Council in 2014, Bill Gilbride has worked tirelessly on behalf of the section and its members, serving as chair from 2018-19, and as Section treasurer from 2015-17. Most recently, he chaired the Council's Nominating Committee, overseeing the evaluation of the many applicants wishing to join the Section Council. Bill was instrumental in organizing the Council's first

Diversity and Inclusion Action Team and in adding to our Mission Statement the principle of "Promoting diversity and inclusion in the training, development and selection of ADR providers and encouraging the elimination of mediator bias."



Craig R. Pappas

The Nanci S. Klein Award is presented to an individual, program, or entity in recognition of exemplary programs, initiatives, and leaders in community dispute resolution. **Craig R. Pappas** is the 2020 award recipient.

Since July 1999, Craig has been the Executor Director of The Resolution Center in Mount Clemens, Michigan, an early adopter of the special education and Postal Service mediation programs, and a range of services in restorative practices for schools. He has guided The Resolution Center to successfully implement various mediation programs such as Americans with Disabilities, Parenting

Time, Employment Discrimination, Special Education, and Victim-Offender. He serves on the Round Table Strategies ("RTS") board, a state-wide non-profit that administers the grant from the Office of Special Education to fund services at various stages in work done between schools and families.



John A. Obce

The Hero of ADR Award is presented to a person or entity for supporting the ADR Section's mission or the field of conflict resolution generally, by providing exemplary assistance. **John A. Obce** is the 2020 award recipient.

John has mentored many rising arbitrators who seek to expand their experience but might not otherwise have the opportunities to do so, due to their race or gender. He is widely known for promoting networking and mentoring opportunities, introductions, and constructive criticism necessary for up and coming professionals. John is a member of the National

Academy of Arbitrators. He served in the civil rights movement in Mississippi in the 1960s, and co-authored *Mississippi's Exiled Daughter*, released in June 2018.