



Trial by Judge Program

Features

Overview

ADR Systems is providing an expedited way to adjudicate disputes with our Trial by Judge Program. Under this program, parties have much more control over getting their case decided in a timely manner. The Trial by Judge Program is straightforward: Parties agree on a judge from our panel to serve as a neutral decision-maker in their legal dispute. They present evidence and their arguments to the judge, who will rule on the matter based on the facts and the law.

Privacy

While court proceedings are typically public, this program is conducted in a confidential setting and parties can keep their dispute private by agreement.

Case Qualifications

- Cases must be trial ready before parties can use this program
- Cases must be personal injury matters only
- No limits on case complexity or amount of damages requested by the litigants

Fees

- Parties will pay an administrative fee plus an hourly rate for the judge, which includes time spent in review, trial and decision, including drafting a reasoned opinion if requested by the parties
- The hourly rate for the judge is based on their standard hourly rate for personal injury cases

ADR Systems of America, LLC.
20 N Clark Street
Floor 29
Chicago IL, 60602

p: 312.960.2260
t: 1.800.423.7010
f: 312.960.2268
info@adrsystems.com



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Notable Parameters

- Motion practice is carried out prior to the case coming to ADR Systems
- Motions in limine will be allowed
- The trial will follow the Rules of the Illinois Code of Civil Procedure, Illinois Supreme Court Rules and the Illinois Rules of Evidence unless the parties stipulate otherwise
- Live testimony will be presented at trial unless otherwise stipulated by the parties or otherwise permitted by the rule
- No punitive damages will be considered unless by agreement
- No appeals, and the ruling will be final and binding by agreement
- High/Low parameters may be used, but will be unknown to the judge
- Some or all parties may participate via Zoom



Trial by Judge Program

Benefits

Efficient Process

Our Trial by Judge Program offers a faster trial option than the public court system. When courts are backlogged or when parties need disputes resolved quickly, this program allows for more efficient and timely adjudication of disputes in a bench trial format.

Simplified Scheduling

Trials are often delayed. We simplify the process by starting with the most convenient scheduling options for parties, witnesses and experts. We make all the calls necessary to coordinate dates, and counsel are not burdened with this task.

Choice

Parties can agree to a specific judge and a specific date for their trial. This date will not change except by agreement of the parties.

Less Expensive

Our program can be a cost-saving option for your client. There are no court costs or costs associated with drawn-out litigation.

Flexible and Comfortable

Judges in this program have more freedom than is allowed in the public court system. Parties have more flexibility to tailor the process to fit the needs of those involved in the proceedings. This gives the parties more control over the process than they would have in the court system. The overall environment is less stressful and is less intimidating for the parties.

Support

ADR Systems provides full administrative support for your case to ensure a seamless process. Your trial can be heard in person, remotely or in a hybrid format. We will provide unparalleled service to you and your client throughout the proceedings.