



The State Bar of California

Alternative Dispute Resolution Certification Program Working Group

Working Group Charge

The ADR Certification Working Group will make recommendations for a comprehensive framework for the certification of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) firms, providers, and practitioners, pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 6173.

As a guiding principle, the Working Group will balance maintaining rigorous professional standards with creating an inclusive program that accommodates the wide variety of ADR firms, providers, and practitioners. The Working Group will develop a comprehensive certification framework that promotes public confidence and consumer protection in ADR services.

The Working Group will recommend State Bar Rules and Procedures to the Board of Trustees, including periodic evaluation of the Board-approved certification program, regarding the following:

1. Qualification Requirements for certification of firms, providers, and practitioners that provide or perform ADR services, including complaint and remedy procedures.
2. A Tiered Certification Structure that establishes criteria for awarding higher levels of certification to firms, providers, or practitioners that demonstrate higher levels of commitment to accountability and consumer protection.
3. Program Administration, including procedures and criteria for certifying applicants and certification denial and revocation, and fee structures that allow for program stability and can be assessed equitably across a variety of candidates for certification.

The Working Group will aim to submit its recommendations to the Board of Trustees at its September 2025 meeting.