



The CPA As A Dispute Resolution Professional

The next time you're faced with a mediation or arbitration situation, consider adding an accounting professional to the equation.

CPAs are uniquely qualified and well-represented on the American Arbitration Association's (AAA) Roster of Arbitrators and Mediators. A CPA can prove invaluable in providing expert, impartial judgement in accounting as well as complex commercial, employment and construction cases, where issues involve matters such as financial breakdowns, incentive packages and benefits issues.

In particular, a CPA can add substantial value to the process in cases involving issues of:

- Business valuation
- Lost profits
- Tax issues

Qualifications for CPAs serving on the AAA Roster are extensive and positions limited. Candidates are screened using an intensive, two-tiered process that evaluates management skills, substantive expertise, commitment, ethics, training and suitability to the regional caseload.

Along with academic achievements and professional honors, neutrals' qualifications include a minimum of 10 years of senior-level business experience or legal practice, honors and awards indicating leadership in the field, and training and experience in arbitration or other forms of dispute

resolution. Once accepted to the panel, there are basic arbitrator training requirements, as well as continuing education requirements, that neutrals must meet.