



**THE ASSOCIATION OF LABOR RELATIONS AGENCIES
66th ANNUAL CONFERENCE
Portland, Oregon**

Conference Agenda

Labor Relations in 2017: Relic or Relevant

Saturday, July 22, 2017

1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. **ALRAcademy**

This workshop provides members of ALRA with touchstone information about the ALRA organization, its benefits and value for members. It also provides participants with an opportunity to reflect on the principle of neutrality and discuss how it translates in practical terms for members and staff of labor relations and mediation agencies. This workshop offers a forum for comparative analysis of US and Canadian labor law frameworks and an opportunity to learn from practices in various jurisdictions relating to mediation and adjudication of labor disputes.

1:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m. Introduction to ALRAcademy & Introduction of Attendees

1:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. World of Labor Relations: US and Canada

- General Overview
- Access to Collective Bargaining (Representation)
- Unfair Labor Practices

2:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. Health Break

2:45 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. Concepts of Neutrality

- Discussion of ALRA Neutrality Project
- Scenarios

3:45 p.m. – 4:50 p.m. Approaches to Mediation

- A Comprehensive Analysis of US & Canada

4:50 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Introduction of ALRA Executive Board

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. **Welcome Reception for Delegates**

Sunday, July 23, 2017

9:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. **Roundtable Discussions**

Join a group of member agency practitioners facing similar challenges to exchange views and share practical advice. These “best practice” facilitated discussions allow delegates to exchange views and practical advice on important matters confronting various practice areas with member agencies.

Administrators /General Counsel Roundtable

Facilitators

Sarah Cudahy – Executive Director and General Counsel, Indiana Education Employees Relations Board

Catherine Gilbert – Executive Director and Registrar, Ontario Labour Relations Board

Board and Commission Members

Facilitators

Catherine Ebbs – Chair, Public Service Labour Relations and Employment Board

Marilyn Sayan – Chair, Washington Public Employment Relations Commission

Mediators

Facilitators

Kathy Peters – Mediator, Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service – Canada

Javier Ramirez – Director of Field Programs and Innovation, Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service - US

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. **Brunch**

Perspectives: Labor History in Oregon State

Marcus Widenor – Associate Professor Emeritus, University of Oregon Labor Education and Research Center

1:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. **The Year in Review: What’s Significant and Relevant?**

Panel members will discuss current developments and trends emanating from the State and Federal levels as well as recent developments in Canadian law that are worth noting and observing as precursors or indicators of a broader shift in labor policy.

Moderator

Mike Sellars – Executive Director, Washington Public Employment Relations Commission

Panelists

Richard F. Griffin – General Counsel, National Labor Relations Board

Peter Simpson – Director, Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service – Canada

3:00 p.m.

Explore Portland

[Monday, July 24, 2017 – Advocates' Day](#)

See Separate Agenda

[Tuesday, July 25, 2017](#)

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

**The Challenges of Non-Traditional Participation in Labor-
Management Relations**

L. Michelle LeBaron – Professor of Law and Dispute Resolution Scholar, The Peter Allard
School of Law, The University of British Columbia

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Concurrent Workshops

**Adjudicator Workshop: Adjudicating Through the Challenges of Non-Traditional Participation
in Labor-Management Relations.**

Applying the information from the preceding plenary session, this session will examine how adjudicators can use tools and navigate the impediments to deal with the challenges of non-traditional participation in labor-management relations.

Moderator

Michael Sellars – Executive Director, Washington Public Employment
Relations Commission

Panelists

Bernard Fishbein – Chair, Ontario Labour Relations Board - Ministry of Labour

Adam Rhynard – Chair, Oregon Employment Relations Board

Marjorie Wittner – Chair, Massachusetts Commonwealth Employment Relations Board

Mediator Workshop: Facilitating Resolution with the Challenges of Non-Traditional Participation in Labor-Management Relations.

Applying the information from the preceding plenary session, this session will examine how mediators confront the challenge of non-traditional participation in labor-management relations in mediation and conciliation.

Facilitators

Linda Gonzalez – Regional Director, Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service - US

Lucie Morneault – Dispute Resolution Specialist, Public Service Labour Relations and Employment Board

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. **Lunch**

1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. **The Basics of Ethics**

Through the use of case scenarios, participate in discussions and reflection regarding questions of public perception, potential biases and ethical considerations that mediators, adjudicators and practitioners may face in the professional and social interactions.

Facilitators

Barney Dobbin – Mediator, Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service – Canada

Mary Johnson – General Counsel, National Mediation Board

2:30 p.m. - 3:15 p.m. **Annual General Meeting**

Review of the Association's business

Presentation of the Conference site for the 2018 ALRA Conference – Boston, MA

3:15 p.m. - 4:15 p.m. **Executive Board Meeting**

6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. **Reception**

7:00 pm. – 9:00 p.m. **Closing Banquet**