



**THE ASSOCIATION OF LABOR RELATIONS AGENCIES  
67th ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
Boston, Massachusetts  
July 21 to 24, 2018**

*“Individual and Collective Rights: Finding a Structure that Works”*

The 2018 ALRA conference will be held in historic Boston, Massachusetts at the iconic Boston Park Plaza hotel. Located in downtown Boston, this hotel is steps from many of the city’s most popular sites. A block of rooms will be set aside for the ALRA conference. More details about the hotel can be found at <https://www.bostonparkplaza.com>.

**Fees and Registration**

**Full conference for ALRA Members (Delegates): \$550 USD**

For members and employees of ALRA member agencies ONLY, includes Advocates' day program.

**Advocates' Day, July 23 Only (Advocates): \$295 USD**

For public and private sector advocates to join ALRA delegates to hear speakers discuss topics impacting the workplace.

The registration desk for ALRA 2018 is ready and active. For more details and to register, please consult: <https://www.regonline.com/alra2018>

**Conference Agenda**

The ALRA Conference Planning Committee is working diligently on a diverse and stimulating program. The PRELIMINARY AGENDA for the Conference is as follows:

## **PRELIMINARY AGENDA**

### **Full Conference and Advocates Day**

[Saturday July 21, 2018](#)

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.

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

[Sunday July 22, 2018](#)

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 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.

- a. Administrators /General Counsel
- b. Board/Commission Members
- c. Mediators

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.                    **Brunch**

Labor Relations in Massachusetts

1:00 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.                    **Representation Developments**

Panel members will discuss current developments and trends emanating from US and Canadian 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.

1:45 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.                    **Health Break**

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.                    **Mind Mapping**

Traditional brainstorming methods, like flip charting, can interrupt the flow of ideas as parties pause to sort, combine, or otherwise organize their ideas. "Mind mapping" recognizes the brain's natural way of organizing information and provides parties with a powerful problem-solving tool.

3:00 p.m.                                    **Optional Boston Outings**

[Monday July 23, 2018 – Advocates' Day](#)

8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.                    **Opening and Welcoming Remarks**

9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.                    **Keynote Address: Dr. Lisa Lynch, Provost and Chief Academic Officer  
Brandeis University**

9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.                    **Fatigue and Impairment: Shifting Paradigms in Health and Safety**

10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.                    **Health Break**

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.                    **Precarious Employment in Higher Education -William Herbert,  
Executive Director, National Center for the Study of Collective  
Bargaining in Higher Education and the Professions**

12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.                    **Lunch**

1:30 a.m. – 2:45 p.m.                    **Institutional Response to Foundational Challenge: Moving Forward  
After *Janus***

2:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.                    **Health Break**

3:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.                    **The Ethics of Representation**

4:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.                    **Concluding Remarks**

5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.                    **Advocates' Day Reception**

[Tuesday July 24, 2018](#)

8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.                    **Navigating Mental Health Issues Within the Conflict - Dr. Kathy  
Sanders, Deputy Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Mental  
Health**

9:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.                    **Health Break**

9:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.                    **Concurrent Workshops**

**Adjudicator Workshop: Adjudicating when Mental Health Issues Impact the Conflict.**

Applying the information from the preceding plenary session, this interactive session will identify tools for adjudicators to address mental health issues present in the conflict and adjudication.

**Mediator Workshop: Facilitating Resolution when Mental Health Issues Impact the Conflict.**

Applying the information from the preceding plenary session, this interactive session will identify tools for mediators to address the impacts that mental health issues impact the conflict.

12:00 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.

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

Review of the Association's business

Presentation of the Conference site for the 2019 ALRA Conference – Cincinnati, Ohio

3:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.                    **Executive Board Meeting**

6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.                    **Reception**

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