

Saturday, January 24, 2026

8:30 – 11:45 a.m.

Dispute Resolution Section

3.0 MCLE Credit Hours

Supreme Court Commission on CLE Course #: 260143

Room Location: 200-202

Arbitration and Other Tricks of the ADR Trade

Get ready to learn everything you wanted to know about arbitration and other dispute resolution methods. And get ready to ask any questions to gain new insight into how these dispute resolution tools are now making their presence known across all South Carolina courts. First, Judge Clifton Newman will talk about his transition from the trial courts of South Carolina to the national arbitration arena. He will discuss arbitration, its growing impact across the nation, and its role in consumer disputes to high-level business disputes. He will also answer your questions about this dispute resolution tool that is not going anywhere soon. Second, Kelly Pope-Black is a former family court judge who now mediates and arbitrates across the State. She will share her thoughts about Early Neutral Evaluation (ENE). She will talk with us about how it can be an effective tool, especially in the family court arena. Evaluating a case before it goes to the family court may save the parties time, money, and emotional stress, and this former judge can show us the way to help our clients. Kelly will also touch on how ENE can be used in civil cases as well. Third, Angus Lawton will speak about the Fast Track Trial (FTT) procedure and the kinds of cases that are well suited for FTTs. You will also learn tips and best practices for lawyers and their clients when going through a FTT, and there will be a discussion of the advantages and disadvantages of the process. Angus will also add his tips of the trade about the ENE process in the civil world so that parties can resolve disputes without the time and expense of a trial. Fourth, Natalie Bluestein will give us insight into the world of Cooperative Law. She will discuss the principles of Cooperative Law and its applicability to family court cases as well as other areas of law, including probate, real property and contracts. Finally, we have a panel that will address all the questions you've wanted answered. From civil to probate to family law, these panelists have the answers. Plus, they'll keep us abreast of all the changes in the Dispute Resolution world. The Dispute Resolution Section CLE is not to be missed.

Agenda

8:30 – 9:45 a.m.

Arbitration and Q&A

The Honorable Clifton Newman
S.C. Circuit Court Judge
Kingstree, SC

9:45 – 10 a.m.

Break

10 – 10:25 a.m.

Early Neutral Evaluation

The Honorable Kelly Pope-Black
S.C. Family Court
Campobello, SC

10:25 – 10:50 a.m. **Fast Track Trial**

Angus Lawton
Lawton Law Firm
Mount Pleasant, SC

10:50 – 11:15 a.m. **Cooperative Law**

Natalie Bluestein
Bluestein & Douglas, LLC
Mount Pleasant, SC

11:15 – 11:45 a.m. **Panel Discussion**

The Honorable Clifton Newman
S.C. Circuit Court Judge
Kingstree, SC

The Honorable Kelly Pope-Black
S.C. Family Court
Campobello, SC

Angus Lawton
Lawton Law Firm
Mount Pleasant, SC

Natalie Bluestein
Bluestein & Douglas, LLC
Mount Pleasant, SC

Course Planner/Moderator: Bess DuRant
Sowell & DuRant, LLC
Columbia, SC