

TWENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL LABOR ARBITRATION CONFERENCE

October 27, 2025
Providence Marriott
1 Orms Street
Providence, RI 02904



NATIONAL ACADEMY
OF ARBITRATORS



Oct. 27 26th Annual Labor Arbitration Conference

8:00 am	Registration and self-serve breakfast	
8:30 am	URI/NAA Welcome	<i>Peg Boyd – URI Mary Ellen Shea – NAA Sherrie Rose Talmadge-NAA James Cooper- NAA Conference Announcements</i>
9:00 am	A Judge’s View of Labor Arbitration	<i>Walter Hunter, Moderator Hon. William Smith (U.S. D.C, RI) Hon. Melissa Long (RI Supreme Court)</i>
10:00 am	Break	
10:15 am	Should Arbitrators Mediate?	<i>Tim Taylor, Moderator Speaker: Ira Lobel Management View: Jillian Folger-Hartwell Union View: Liz Wiens Academic View: Matt Bodah</i>
11:30 am	Legal Updates: NLRB & Federal Courts	<i>Rosemary Pye, Moderator Fed: Catherine Terrell RI: Matt Parker</i>
12:30 pm	What is Going On at FMCS and NMB?	<i>Sherrie Rose Talmadge, Introducer Joshua Javits, President National Academy of Arbitrators</i>
1:00 pm	Buffet Style Lunch	

1:45 pm BREAKOUT SESSIONS

#1	Opening Statements and Direct and Cross-Examination	<i>Michael Mullane, Moderator Panelists: Walter Hunter and Beth Wolfson</i>
#2	Alternatives to Arbitration Including Postal Service Experience with Preliminary Step Process	<i>Eileen Cenci, Moderator Panelists: John Markuns, Arbitrator Mary Jane Tufano, Arbitrator Daniel Toth, National Association of Letter Carriers James Lloyd, USPS Director, Contract Administration (NALC)</i>
#3	Challenges to Conventional Wisdom About the Attributes Sought by Parties in the Arbitrator Selection Process	<i>Michael Loconto, Moderator Presenter: E. Patrick McDermott Panelists: Arthur Pearlstein, Neutral view Katherine Hesse, Management view Carly lafrate, Union view</i>

3:00 pm Transition

3:15 pm	Red Light/Green Light	<i>Dick Adelman, Moderator. Panelists: Jim Bilik, Katie Rosen, Rebekah Smith, Will Evans, Rich Bodurtha</i>
4:45 pm	Labor Guild Video: “Boston Labor Guild Still Stands Strong”	<i>Introduction by John Higgins, Chair of the College of Labor and Employment Lawyers Video History Project</i>
5:30 pm	Meet and Greet in Hotel Restaurant	<i>Everyone is invited!</i>