



ARIAS•U.S. Code of Conduct - Canon II

FAIRNESS:

Arbitrators shall conduct the dispute resolution process in a fair manner and shall serve only in those matters in which they can render a just decision. If at any time the arbitrator is unable to conduct the process fairly or render a just decision, the arbitrator should withdraw.

COMMENTS:

1. Persons contacted to serve as an arbitrator should ascertain before accepting an appointment the identities of the parties, including as appropriate and to the extent known, present and former affiliates, predecessors and successors; identities of counsel; identities of other arbitrators; identities of witnesses; general factual background; and the anticipated issues and positions of the parties.
2. Arbitrators should refrain from offering any assurances, or predictions, as to how they will decide the dispute and should refrain from stating a definitive position on any particular issue. Although party-appointed arbitrators may be initially predisposed toward the position of the party who appointed them (unless prohibited by the contract), they should avoid reaching a judgment on any issues, whether procedural or substantive, until after both parties have had a full and fair opportunity to present their respective positions and the panel has fully deliberated on the issues. Arbitrators should advise the appointing party, when accepting an appointment, that they will ultimately decide issues presented in the arbitration objectively. Party-appointed arbitrators are obligated to act in good faith and with integrity and fairness, should not allow their appointment to influence their decision on any matter before them, and should make all decisions justly.
3. Party-appointed arbitrators should not offer a commitment to dissent, or to work for a compromise in the event of a disagreement with the majority's proposed award. Party-appointed arbitrators may advise the party appointing them whether they are willing to render a reasoned decision if requested.
4. After accepting an appointment, arbitrators should avoid entering into any financial, business, professional, family or social relationship, or acquiring any financial or personal interest, that would likely affect their ability to render a just decision.