



ARIAS-U.S. 2017 Fall Conference

Request for Proposals Submission Guidelines and Application

Proposal Submission Deadline: **July 10, 5:00 p.m. ET**

For questions or comments, contact Joyce Arawole at ARIAS-U.S. at jarawole@arias-us.org or 703.260.7515.

ARIAS-U.S. is seeking dynamic, relevant, and interesting content for the 2017 Fall Conference to be held November 2- 3 at the Marriott Marquis in New York. The planning committee is looking for presentations beyond the traditional reinsurance arbitration. While many reinsurance disputes involve the collection of long tail asbestos or environmental losses, at this conference, we plan to highlight other "non-traditional" disputes which can be and often are resolved through arbitration. These might include disputes involving a diverse array of products, businesses or lines, including disputes between policyholders and insurers as well as MGA, agency and/or broker disputes, workers compensation and/or life reinsurance disputes, structured finance disputes and other disputes focused on financial matters, disputes involving captives, Bermuda Form arbitrations and others.

ARIAS-U.S. is seeking submissions for 45 to 60 minute interactive presentations in a General or Breakout session format. Submissions should be interactive, skill-based and/or audience participative or other forms of presentation that encourage interaction and lively discussions. Special consideration will be given to proposals that incorporate unique presentation formats. The ARIAS-U.S. planning committee may also provide suggestions for enhancing the panel and overall conference experience for participants. The planning committee is looking to avoid "talking head" presentations for the Fall Conference and invites submissions that fit within the listed conference themes that explore specific challenges, topics and issues in-depth. Please review the details and guidelines of this RFP process thoroughly before proceeding.

- Proposals may be submitted for targeted member audiences (i.e. Arbitrators/Umpires, Company Representatives, and Counsel).
- Presentations will be considered based on quality of topic, introduction of new and innovative concepts, importance of the subject-matter to insurance/reinsurance arbitration, and appeal to the target audience(s).
- The lead presenter organizes the presentation and is responsible for submitting the proposal application, forming the group session, moderating the session and leading the discussion.
- This request for proposals is open to all ARIAS-U.S. members and non-members. Interested parties may submit more than one proposal at a time.
- ARIAS-U.S. may request a submission be revised to better fit the conference agenda or combined with another presentation where appropriate.
- Submissions accepted must agree to adhere to a timeline provided by ARIAS-U.S. to submit conference materials, including PowerPoint presentations, and supplementary materials in advance of the conference.
- Speakers are strongly encouraged to submit an article for the quarterly journal based on their presentation or related to the topic's focus area.
- All individuals accepted to present in any of the presentation types must be registered by the presenter registration deadline. *Please note: no registration or payment is necessary to submit a proposal. Only those accepted will be required to register.*
- Speakers are responsible for their own travel, room, board, incidental, and registration costs

- Completed proposal application must be submitted electronically by 5:00 pm ET on **July 10, 2017** to Joyce Arawole at jarawole@arias-us.org.

ARIAS-U.S. 2017 Fall Conference Submission Application

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: July 10, 5:00 p.m. ET

Email all completed applications to Joyce Arawole at jarawole@arias-us.org

Proposal Timeline:

Proposal Submission Opens:	June 19, 2017
Proposal Submission Closes:	July 10, 2017 by 5:00 p.m. ET
Submission Status Notification:	July 25, 2017
Speaker Confirmation Deadline:	August 1, 2017

Please type your responses and ensure that all fields are complete before submitting the application. All questions concerning this process should be directed to info@arias-us.org.



1. CONTACT INFORMATION:

Please complete the contact information for the main speaker/ submitter of this proposal. This person will be notified regarding the status of the proposal submission. **Note:** If your presentation includes a co-speaker or panelists, you must submit “Speaker Information” for ALL of the presenters.

Full Name:	Mitchell R. Harris
Title/Position:	Partner - Chair, Insurance & Reinsurance Litigation Group, Day Pitney LLP
Telephone Number:	860-275-0332
Email Address:	mrharris@daypitney.com



1. SESSION FORMAT:

Presentations may be designed for one or more presenters in either a general session or breakout session format.

- Interactive Panel Session: 45 – 60 minutes
- Alternative Format: If there is an alternative format that you would like to explore, please explain

A. Please select the presentation format for your proposed session by clicking on the gray box below:

	Interactive Panel Session
	Alternative Format – Please explain:

B. Will this be planned as a general session or breakout?

- General Session (Large conference audience up to 400): 45 - 60 minutes
- Breakout Session (Small group concurrent sessions of up to 100 people in a room): 45 – 60 minutes

	General Session		Breakout Session
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C. Please provide the technology that you plan on using, if any (PowerPoint, live polling, other?). Please note that audiovisual requests only apply to general sessions:

PowerPoint

2. CONFERENCE THEME AND FOCUS

We encourage proposals focused on a variety of topics that relate to the general themes provided below.

The planning committee is looking for presentations beyond the traditional reinsurance arbitration. While many reinsurance disputes involve the collection of long tail asbestos or environmental losses, at this conference, we plan to highlight other "non-traditional" disputes which can be and often are resolved through arbitration. These might include disputes involving a diverse array of products, businesses or lines, including the following below. Please select topic focus by clicking on the gray box below:

	Disputes between policyholders and insurers, MGA, agency and/or broker disputes
	Workers compensation and/or life reinsurance disputes
	Structured finance disputes and other disputes focused on financial matters
	Disputes involving captives, Bermuda Form arbitrations and others
	Other disputes – please describe:

The conference planning committee is interested in providing fresh and relevant content to keep conference participants engaged. Please answer briefly, the following questions below to help us understand the focus and relevance of your submission to current events and issues within the selected conference topic.

- A. What is the specific topic you are proposing and why? We propose to present a session on the substantive and procedural issues that arise in workers compensation arbitrations with policyholders.

- B. What makes this topic of interest to the conference audience? One of the key selling points of an ARIAS arbitration is that the parties have a panel of experts in the field. ARIAS arbitrators who wish to sit on panels in new areas outside reinsurance must cultivate expertise in these new areas.

- C. Why is it relevant? Are there any current events or articles you can share? It is relevant to ARIAS’s desire to present programs on “non-traditional” arbitrations.

- D. How does this topic impact the business of reinsurance arbitration? Ultimately, workers’ compensation claims may find their way into reinsurance arbitrations, but our program will focus on the primary arbitration of these underlying claims.

3. TARGET AUDIENCE:

Proposals may be submitted for targeted member audiences (i.e. Arbitrators/Umpires, Company Representatives, and Counsel). Please select the target audience(s) by clicking on the gray box below:

	Arbitrators / Umpires
	Company Representatives
	Counsel

4. SESSION TITLE:

List the presentation title as it will appear in the conference program. Please limit to 10 words or less.

Arbitrating Workers' Compensation Disputes with Policyholders.

5. SESSION DESCRIPTION:

Please provide a brief 25-50 word description of the presentation content. Describe the session in promotional terms for the registration brochure.

While the reinsurance arbitration community is very familiar and comfortable with ARIAS-style arbitrations, expanding the practice of ARIAS arbitrators into workers' compensation arbitrations requires education and preparation, as the processes and issues in workers' compensation arbitrations differ in many significant ways. This session will focus on the key procedural and substantive issues presented in workers' compensation arbitrations with policyholders.

6. DETAILED SESSION DESCRIPTION:

Please provide a detailed (no more than 300 words) description of the presentation content and how you plan to engage participants.

The program will be interactive, drawing on the experiences of all participants. The main subject areas to the program will address are:

- Understanding program structures: This portion of the presentation will outline the common workers' compensation program structures and the common profiles of a workers' compensation insured under these structures. It will focus in particular on the unusual elements of many workers' compensation programs, including the financing element, retrospective premiums, consortia of insureds and key common elements of program agreements, which operate in parallel to the workers' compensation policy.
- Arbitration/Arbitrability issues – Notwithstanding binding arbitration clauses in program agreements, many policyholders resist arbitrating. Issues concerning the panel's authority arise in workers' compensation arbitrations much more frequently than in reinsurance arbitrations. This portion of the program will focus on common issues concerning the scope of the panel's authority and arbitrability in workers' compensation arbitrations.

- Arbitration inception: This portion of the program will address the initial dynamics of a workers' compensation arbitration, including common arbitrator selection issues, the current pool of frequently-used arbitrators, and issues as to which court intervention is commonly sought.
- Commercial component: The program will educate participants in the commercial elements of common workers' compensation arbitrations under program agreements.
- Insurance claim issues: This portion of the program will educate participants about the key insurance claim issues that commonly arise in workers' compensation arbitrations, including disputes over: the calculation of retrospective premiums; the payment of claims; and audits.
- Data security issues: Workers' compensation disputes present a heightened risk of improperly disclosing personally identifiable information and personal health information. The program will outline and discuss the panel and parties' obligations with respect such information.

7. SESSION LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

Learning objectives are a required component of the submission process so that ARIAS·U.S. can request for continuing legal education credits.

Please state what participants can expect to learn and /or do upon completion of the session in measurable, behavioral terms. **Examples of measurable words include: state, list, describe, explain, identify, name, demonstrate, etc.** [Click here for a link to examples](#)

Please include three to five learning objectives below:

1	Understand the unique aspects of workers' compensation programs.
2	Recognize the challenges and potential solutions presented by arbitrating with a policyholder.
3	Understand the key non-insurance issues that commonly arise in workers' compensation arbitrations.
4	Understand the key insurance claim issues that commonly arise in workers' compensation arbitrations.
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8. SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY:

Speaker biographies are a required component of the submission process so that ARIAS·U.S. can request for continuing legal education credits. ***Please complete a speaker biography for each presenter. For additional speakers, please copy this page.***

A. Contact Information:

Full Name:	Mitchell R. Harris
Title/Position:	Partner - Chair, Insurance & Reinsurance Litigation Group, Day Pitney LLP
Telephone Number:	860-275-0332
Email Address:	mrharris@daypitney.com

B. Presentation History:

Have you presented at an ARIAS-U.S. conference or seminar previously?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
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Has this presentation been delivered before at a different conference or event?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
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If yes, when and where?

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C. Please describe your familiarity with the target audience and your expertise on this topic:

<p>I have represented clients in reinsurance, insurance and commercial arbitrations for more than 20 years. My colleagues and I have very substantial experience in workers compensation disputes from several different perspectives, including handling a substantial number of workers' compensation arbitrations.</p>

D. Please provide a biography of (up to 150 words) as it will appear in the conference program.

<p>Mitch Harris is a trial lawyer, primarily representing financial institutions and insurance companies in litigation, arbitration, investigative and regulatory proceedings. Mitch has served as lead trial counsel in commercial and insurance litigation in federal and state courts and in arbitrations throughout the country. An objective third-party survey, <i>Benchmark Litigation: The Definitive Guide to America's Leading Litigation Firms & Attorneys</i>, has repeatedly recognized Mitch as a "Connecticut Litigation Star."</p>
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Thank you for completing the Call for Proposals Submission Application. Please email all completed applications to Joyce Arawole at jarawole@arias-us.org by 5:00 p.m. ET on **July 10, 2017**.