



2016 BOARD ELECTIONS

*The following are STANDING FOR ELECTION for 2016-17. Short biographies for these candidates and a proxy statement follow. Please complete the enclosed Proxy Statement and return **before the December 6, 2016 Annual Meeting** to glen.parker@acrgny.org.*

The following are the Nominating Committee's candidates for **election** in 2016-2017. This is the slate of potential Directors up for election:

Melissa Appleton
Theodore Cheng
Aldo Civico
Charlotte Ramsey
Regina Ritcey
Diane Rosen

The following are the Nominating Committee's candidates for **re-election** in 2016-2017. This is the slate of Directors up for re-election:

Dana Berman, Director at Large
Todd Drucker, President-Elect
Charles Newman, Director at Large
James Rhodes, Vice-President, Strategic Planning
Jesan Sorells, Vice President, Membership
Justin Stroock, Treasurer

The following Board Members continue their terms (they are not up for reelection this year):

Denise Shaw, President
Elizabeth Clemants, Immediate Past President
Eric Goldman, City and Development Committees Chair
Glen Parker, Annual Conference Committee
Frank J. Scardilli, Esq., Honorary Life Time Board Member

CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHIES

Melissa Appleton

Melissa manages the implementation of Participatory Budgeting projects and innovations on the East Coast. With over eight years of experience supporting group and inter-personal dialogue as a facilitator, mediator, and trainer at the largest community mediation organization in the US (New York Peace Institute), she brings a passion for collective decision-making to participatory budgeting. Melissa is happy to be supporting group deliberation with diverse communities more locally after doing conflict resolution work internationally in Timor-Leste, Kosovo, and Israel. She received a graduate degree in Peace Education from Columbia University and, though a proud Vancouver native, has called New York City home for over 11 years. Melissa also served as a co-chair for the 2016 ACR-GNY Annual Conference.

Theo Cheng

Theo Cheng practices in intellectual property and general commercial litigation. He heads the firm's Trademarks and Unfair Competition Practice and also focuses on copyrights, patents, trade secrets, and other intellectual property matters. With 20 years of experience handling a broad array of business disputes in federal and state courts, Mr. Cheng counsels high net-worth individuals and small to middle-market business entities in industries as varied as high-tech, telecommunications, entertainment, consumer products, fashion, food and hospitality, retail, and financial services. He typically formulates and advises clients and their in-house counsel on litigation and dispute resolution strategy, often striving to suggest innovative and creative ways to resolve conflicts. Mr. Cheng is also a Trustee of the Copyright Society of the U.S.A. and serves as the Co-Chair of its New York Chapter. In 2007, he was named one of the Best Lawyers Under 40 by the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association. He is licensed to practice in both New York and New Jersey.

Mr. Cheng is also an arbitrator and mediator with the American Arbitration Association (AAA), the CPR Institute, Resolute Systems, and several federal and state courts, principally focusing on intellectual property, entertainment, and technology disputes. He was also appointed to the Silicon Valley Arbitration & Mediation Center's 2016 List of the World's Leading Technology Neutrals. As a neutral, Mr. Cheng has conducted over 325 arbitrations and mediations, resolving commercial and business disputes, breach of contract and negligence actions, trade secret theft, employment discrimination claims, wage-and-hour disputes, and intellectual property infringement contentions. He received a 2013 AAA A. Leon Higginbotham, Jr. Fellowship and serves on the Council of the AAA and the Board of the Justice Marie L. Garibaldi American Inn of Court for ADR. He is also a member of the New Jersey Association of Professional Mediators and serves on the New Jersey Supreme Court's Arbitration Advisory Committee and the Committee on Complementary Dispute Resolution.

Mr. Cheng received his A.B. cum laude in Chemistry and Physics from Harvard University and his J.D. from New York University School of Law, where he served as the editor-in-chief of the Moot Court Board. Before joining the firm, he was a senior litigator at several prominent

national law firms. He was also a marketing consultant in the brokerage operations of MetLife Insurance Company, where he was designated a Chartered Life Underwriter and Chartered Financial Consultant, as well as a Series 7 General Securities Representative. Mr. Cheng served as a law clerk to the Honorable Julio M. Fuentes of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit and the Honorable Ronald L. Buckwalter of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. He is a member of several bar and professional associations, for which he serves on various litigation, intellectual property, and ADR sections and committees. He is currently co-chair of the Mediation Committee of the New York State Bar Association's Dispute Resolution Section and a Trustee of the New Jersey State Bar Association's Dispute Resolute Section. He frequently writes and speaks on ADR and intellectual property issues.

Aldo Civico

I have 25 years of experience in conflict resolution and peacebuilding. At the outset of the 1990s, I moved from my hometown Trento, in Northern Italy, to Palermo, to join the anti-mafia social movement. In the years that saw the assassinations of prosecutors Giovanni Falcone and Paolo Borsellino, I worked alongside the mayor of Palermo Leoluca Orlando, to make strategic community building the cornerstone for social change. In 2000, after working for a few years as a free lance journalist for German media, I moved to New York where I joined the Center for International Conflict Resolution (CICR) at Columbia University under the mentorship of Andrea Bartoli. Subsequently, from 2007 to 2010 I became the director of CICR where I led the efforts to transform conflict resolution from a program into a specialization for SIPA graduate students.

Since 2001, as a researcher and a practitioner, I have been involved in peacebuilding in Colombia. I conducted challenging fieldwork among members of paramilitaries death squads as well as internally displaced people, and in 2015 I published the book *The Para-State: An Ethnography of Colombia's Death Squads*. Between 2005 and 2008, I have facilitated ceasefire talks between government of Colombia and the guerrilla of the National Liberation Army (ELN). I am still involved in the ongoing efforts. Furthermore, in the past few years, as an associated researcher at the Advanced Consortium on Cooperation, Conflict and Complexity, I have focused my efforts on bringing the principles and strategies of conflict resolution to urban areas marked by violence, designing with my colleagues at Columbia University trainings for youth and community leaders, and advising public official in conflict resolution sensitive policies.. In New Jersey, I have been helping leaders in the public and private sector to develop approaches that support the reintegration of ex-offenders.

It will be an honor and a pleasure to bring my international experience to benefit the great work that ACR-GNY has being doing, especially at a time when our country needs to find spaces for dialogue and reconciliation, and where the predispositions and attitudes rooted in conflict resolution are most needed. Given my experience, I will be happy to focus especially on how our organization can work with the City of New York in adopting ADR processes to resolve conflict and increasing dialogue with the communities, and how we can increase the conflict resolution capacity building of youth leaders especially in areas marked by violence. I am grateful and most honored for this nomination.

Charlotte Ramsey

I was raised in Rockland County, New York, a working class suburb of NYC. After graduation from high school I attended The American University in Washington, DC to study mass communications and graduated with a BA. I hold a Masters Degree from Teacher's College , Columbia University in Organizational Psychology and a Juris Doctor degree from Temple University.

I have been admitted to practice law for 26 years. (PA, NY and DC) My solo practice has been focused on immigration and real estate. Throughout the years I have represented a significant number of clients in several non-profits including the New York City Bar, The Hudson Valley Legal Services, The Human Rights Commission of Rockland County , as well as a number of indigent immigrant families, homeowners facing foreclosure, and self governing condo associations .

I have acted as an Instructor (adjunct) of Business Law, Conflict Resolution, Professional Ethics and Contracts at the College of Westchester , SUNY Purchase and SUNY Rockland in Suffern, NY. Additionally, I worked at Manhattanville College in Purchase, NY as Higher Education Opportunity Program Advisor , prior to attending Law School.

I am licensed as a Real Estate Broker Associate in NY, NJ in association with Terrie O'Connor Realtors, Ramsey NJ . I am also an independent Broker Owner of my own real estate company in Florida.

Through the past 26 years I have worked as Assistant Village Attorney in Spring Valley , NY , and Legal Advisor to the Chairman at the Rockland County Legislature in New City, New York. I have extensive community service experience and belong to several professional associations.

I am the proud mother of two daughters, Maya and Priya and wife to my husband of 28 years, Subramani. Our married life began in Ho-ho-kus, NJ where our children were both born. We moved to Wesley Hills, NY in Rockland County in 1993 and remain there. I am happy to have both of my living parents, WWII Veteran dad, Calvin, and mom, Anita Ramsey, here in New York.

In closing, it is my hope to serve on the Board of Conflict Resolution of Greater New York with professionalism and integrity at this very critical time in our nation's history. I feel that I bring a compassionate nature and a clear understanding of the value of dialogue in resolving issues in complex situations. Thank you for this opportunity.

Regina Ritcey

Regina Ritcey is the Director of Mediation Services at Community Mediation Services (CMS), in Jamaica, New York. Prior to joining CMS--the Community Dispute Resolution Program for Queens County--Regina served for six years as a staff mediator with the New York City Family Court's Child Permanency Mediation Program, mediating child welfare cases. A seasoned mediation practitioner and dispute resolution program administrator, Regina has extensive experience developing and managing community-based, court-connected, and commercial mediation programs. She has extensive mediation training design and delivery experience, and has managed a variety of programs involving staff, volunteer, and contract mediators.

Ms. Ritcey began her mediation career over 25 years ago working as a mediator and program manager with a Victim Offender Reconciliation Program in Oakland, California. In addition to working with court-connected youth, Regina worked with a victim offender program in San Quentin and other prisons in California. Regina later worked as a Tribunal Administrator and Program Manager for California Community Dispute Services, a community mediation program in San Francisco and as a Hearing Officer for the City & County of San Francisco. She went on to manage the mediation services of the American Arbitration Association (AAA) in San Francisco where she managed daily program operations of the commercial mediation division and designed and delivered mediation training programs for AAA staff and mediators.

Ms. Ritcey's mediation work has included involvement in the San Francisco Bar Association's ADR Committee, the New York City Bar Association's ADR Committee, and numerous working committees, and panels. Notably, along with two fellow NYCBA ADR members, Ms. Ritcey and her colleagues designed and presented the New York Surrogate's Court mediation training program.

Ms. Ritcey's mediation specialties and advanced trainings include victim offender mediation, child permanency, divorce and family mediation. She earned a J.D. in 2002 from the University of San Francisco School of Law, where she was the Literary Editor of the USF Maritime Law Journal and a Public Interest Law Scholar, clerking for the U.S. Department of Justice Environment and Natural Resources Division. Ms. Ritcey graduated with an A.B. from Boston College. She is admitted to the bar in New York.

Diane Rosen

Diane Rosen is of counsel to Sanders Ortoli Vaughn-Flam Rosenstadt LLP, and was formerly with the law firms of Weil Gotshal & Manges, Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom and Alter & Rosen LLP. She is a mediator and conflict coach with a specialty in custody and visitation. Her law practice has concentrations in real estate and corporate transactions and copyright law. Diane is the author of *The Grownup's Guide: Living with Kids in Manhattan*, and was the Founding Vice President of Girls Learn International, a non-profit organization that works to combat the global crisis in girls' education. Diane serves, or until recently served, on the board of Planned Parenthood NYC; in several leadership roles with Cornell University and its subdivisions; on the board of the New York French American Charter School; and on the

advisory board of the Mt. Sinai Adolescent Health Center. She has previously served on the Board of Trustees of the Trinity School in Manhattan. Diane has a BS from Cornell; a JD from Georgetown University; an MBA from NYU Stern, and an MAPP from Penn.

Diane has deeply studied positive psychology and is enthusiastic about applying its principles to dispute resolution. If elected to the ACR-GNY Board, she would like to be active in finding how the organization can be of even greater benefit to members and the larger community, and to participate in designing and implementing ideas to provide those benefits.

CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS UP FOR RE-ELECTION

Dana Berman, Director at Large

Dana Berman is the Assistant Director of CLE at the New York City Bar, where she is a key player in developing a continuing legal education (CLE) program for a leading bar association that offers approximately 150 courses annually in a broad range of practice areas including litigation, mediation, arbitration, negotiation, ethics, and legal writing. Dana's responsibilities include planning and implementing annual multi-day mediation trainings, which entails recruiting the lead trainers and role-play coaches and obtaining New York State Unified Court System approval qualifying trainees for court mediation panels. She was a member of the City Bar's Alternative Dispute Resolution committee for ten years.

Dana served as a Consultant to plan ACRGNY's Twelfth Annual Conference held in June 2013, in collaboration with the Conference Co-chairs and Board of Directors. Previously, Dana was the Director of Mediation at the New York Center for Interpersonal Development where she managed the day-to-day operations of a Community Dispute Resolution Center Program operated under the auspices of the Unified Court System and oversaw mediation and arbitration processes and community outreach. Prior to that, she was an Associate Attorney at the law firm Carrieri & Carrieri, P.C.

Dana earned her JD at Hofstra University School of Law and BA at SUNY Albany and was admitted to the New York State Bar in July 1997.

Todd Drucker, President-Elect

Todd Drucker, Esq. is a Senior Practice Development Manager for JAMS, the largest private ADR provider in the world. He provides in-depth business development and strategic marketing support to JAMS mediators and arbitrators throughout the country and internationally. He also partners with JAMS senior management on larger national and international marketing and business development initiatives related to the promotion of ADR.

Mr. Drucker is committed to advancing thought leadership in ADR through educational programming, speaking engagements and writings. He serves on the ADR Committee of the New York County Lawyers Association and he is a member of the Association for Conflict

Resolution's Greater New York Chapter. He is Co-Chair of the Programming Committee for the Greater New York Chapter of the Legal Marketing Association and also serves on the Board of Directors for the University of Michigan Club of New York.

Mr. Drucker received his undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan and his J.D. from the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law. He is admitted to practice law in New York and New Jersey.

Chuck Newman, Director at Large

Admitted to practice law in 1974, Mr. Newman has had his own law firm in Manhattan, and has been "Of Counsel" to other highly qualified firms, since 1985. He combines law with an Alternative Dispute Resolution practice focusing on mediation and arbitration. Much (but not all) of his work, as lawyer and ADR neutral, is in the fields of commercial and real estate disputes; business transactions; divorce and family law; and information technology.

Mr. Newman began as a lawyer at the highly regarded Manhattan firm Fink Weinberger P.C. He started as an Associate in 1973, became a Partner in 1980, and left in 1985 to start his own firm.

While he maintained a reduced law practice in Manhattan, in 2000 and 2001, Mr. Newman was Vice President of Corporate Affairs at Metaserver, Inc., in New Haven. He was a member of the senior management team of that business process integration (Internet middleware) software and services company, which leveraged technology first conceived at Yale University.

As a mediator, Mr. Newman is a member, for example, of the Panel of Neutrals for the Alternative Dispute Resolution Program of the New York State Supreme Court, New York County, Commercial Division; and a member of the Panel of Mediators of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York. He is on the panel of mediators for the New York State Storm Sandy insurance mediation program administered by the American Arbitration Association. He has been an arbitrator for the New York City Civil Court in Manhattan for many years. He volunteers as a community dispute mediator at the New York Center for Interpersonal Development.

Mr. Newman has served as facilitator or coach at various continuing legal education programs on mediation, including advanced trainings. He has been a volunteer judge of various law school and graduate school negotiation and dispute resolution competitions and examinations. The institutions include Cardozo School of Law, Fordham Law School, St. John's School of Law, the New York University graduate program, New York State Bar Association, Association of the Bar of the City of New York (the New York City Bar) and the Commercial Division of New York State Supreme Court, New York County.

Mr. Newman is a member of the Board of Directors of the Association for Conflict Resolution -

Greater New York Chapter, and of the New York State Council on Divorce Mediation. He is a member of the New York State Bar Association's Family Law Section; the NYSBA's Dispute Resolution Section, including its Committees on Mediation and Negotiation; and the NYSBA's Commercial and Federal Litigation Section, including its Committee on Arbitration and ADR. He is a member of the Family and Divorce Mediation Council of Greater New York.

New York University School of Law, J.D. 1973. Arthur Garfield Hays Civil Liberties Fellow.

Lehigh University, B.A. (Government) 1970, magna cum laude.

James Rhodes, Vice-President, Strategic Planning

Jim Rhodes is an attorney admitted to practice in the States of New York and Texas. An attorney, arbitrator and mediator with extensive international and domestic experience, as well as experience as a business executive and house counsel, he has served as an attorney, arbitrator or mediator in many commercial and investment disputes, particularly in the international sector.

Jim specializes in high-conflict, complex disputes. In this regard, he has served as Chairman, co-panelist or sole arbitrator in over 55 commercial, investment and securities arbitrations conducted under the auspices of various institutions, and is on the panel of arbitrators for the ICC, the AAA, the ICDR, IICPR, FedArb, Singapore International Arbitration Centre, FINRA and the EDNY.

In addition, he has served as mediator in over 75 commercial disputes, and is on the mediator panels for the AAA, ICDR, FINRA, EDNY, SDNY, the Commercial Division ADR Program of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, New York County, and for Civil, General Equity and Probate Cases, New Jersey Courts.

Jim also has over 40 years experience as counsel in dispute resolution management, advising corporate and individual clients how to resolve business disputes wisely and efficiently, avoiding the hemorrhaging of money and the sense of feeling out of control in a litigation system.

He is a former partner with Battle Fowler (now Paul Hastings LLP) and Coudert Brothers. Earlier in his career, he was an associate at Simpson Thacher & Bartlett, and an attorney with the Antitrust Division of the U.S. Department of Justice.

In addition to his legal career, Jim has a business background. He served as counsel and principal in several investment firms involved in the acquisition and disposition of commercial real estate properties and privately-held companies. He is Chairman of S. Gumpert Co. of Canada, Ltd., a privately-held, Canadian food company. From 1989 to 1992, Jim was President and General Counsel of Stanwich Financial Services, Inc., which was involved in the acquisition of portfolio assets from financial institutions.

He has extensive board experience, both in the commercial and not-for-profit areas, and is either

currently serving, or has served in the past, on eight boards.

Jesan Sorrells, Vice-President, Membership

Jesan Sorrells is the Owner and Principal Conflict Engagement consultant at Human Services Consulting and Training (HSCT) based in Endicott, NY.

Jesan has a MA in Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation from Abilene Christian University and is a Certified Divorce and Family Mediator.

HSCT focuses on delivering corporate training solutions in the areas of conflict communication, social media marketing and entrepreneurship for local and regional clients throughout Upstate NY and Northern Pennsylvania ranging from higher education institutions to small companies.

Jesan has an active blog presence through the HSCT Communication Blog (<http://www.hsconsultingandtraining.com/blog/>) as well as an ever-expanding content footprint on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn.

The Earbud_U Podcast (hosted and produced by Jesan) is currently available online.

Jesan is an ongoing, monthly contributor to ADRTimes.com at <http://www.adrtimes.com/>. His contributions focus on content marketing, digital marketing and social media marketing tips, tricks and best practices for alternative dispute resolution (ADR) professionals building and marketing their businesses.

Justin Stroock, Treasurer

Justin is a mediator, attorney, and restorative process practitioner deeply committed to innovative and holistic methods to help repair harm caused by incidents that are otherwise the subject of the justice system. As Coordinator for Criminal Court Mediations at the New York Center for Interpersonal Development (NYCID), he works with traditional stakeholders to address conflict using mediation as an alternative or compliment to criminal sentencing. Justin believes that by allowing the people most directly impacted by harm to have a greater voice and decision-making authority in how to respond, it vastly improves the chances for positive outcomes. Justin is a certified mediator with NYCID and Planning Change, and has a mastery certificate in peacemaking circles from Planning Change, taught by Kay Pranis. He also practices mediation and law in intellectual property and commercial matters, and coordinates a monthly reading circle on restorative practices in Brooklyn, NY.

INSTRUCTIONS

If you expect that you will **not** be able to attend the Annual Meeting, please fill in this form (“Proxy Statement”) and send a PDF (or copy and paste the text) to glen.parker@acrgny.org **before** the December 6, 2016 ACR-GNY Annual Meeting.

If you expect to attend the Annual Meeting, you will vote by ballot during the meeting.

If you have any questions, please call ACR-GNY at (646) 580-9560 or email Glen Parker glen.parker@acrgny.org.

ACR-GNY ANNUAL MEETING 2015 ELECTIONS TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PROXY STATEMENT

To elect the entire slate listed on page 1 above, mark an X here: _____

Otherwise, indicate below Yes or No for individual candidates:

Candidates for Election

Yes/No **Melissa Appleton**

Yes/No **Theodore Cheng**

Yes/No **Aldo Civico**

Yes/No **Charlotte Ramsey**

Yes/No **Regina Ritcey**

Yes/No **Diane Rosen**

Candidates for Re-Election

Yes/No **Dana Berman**, Director at Large

Yes/No **Todd Drucker**, President-Elect

Yes/No **Charles Newman**, Director at Large

Yes/No **James Rhodes**, Vice-President, Strategic Planning

Yes/No **Jesan Sorells**, Vice President, Membership

Yes/No **Justin Stroock**, Treasurer

I, _____ (Member Name), being a current member of ACRGNY, submit my vote as indicated above. I also appoint ACR-GNY Director at Large Glen Parker to vote on my behalf should I not be present to vote in person at the Annual Meeting on December 6, 2016 or at any adjournment thereof. I understand that I may vote in person and this form will be revoked upon my attendance at the Annual Meeting.