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the eNewsletter of Resolution Systems Institute

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Judges in the Commercial Section of Illinois's Circuit Court of Cook County Law Division began referring cases to a new [Mandatory Arbitration Program](#) at the start of the year. The cases must have anticipated damages of less than \$75,000, although some higher exceptions are possible. Cases that involve commercial issues such as employment disputes and civil or commercial fraud are eligible. Approximately 360 cases from the commercial calendar each year are expected to be eligible, comprising about 10% of the total new cases on the calendar. The judges on the commercial calendar will select the arbitrators, who must be experienced commercial attorneys or retired judges who have completed a Chicago Bar Association training seminar. Arbitrators will be paid \$300 for each arbitration. Parties who are not satisfied with the outcome of their arbitration may go on to court, but at a cost. The unsatisfied party must pay a \$750 rejection fee. If the unsatisfied party does not obtain a better result at trial, they must also pay their opponent's reasonable legal fees connected with the arbitration process.

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Mr. Chadha has over two decades of experience in the financial services industry, having worked in the US, India and Russia and managed large global teams. He is very passionate about the need to make the judicial system more efficient, so he is excited to be a part of an organization that he believes positively impacts society and the justice system. He looks forward to serving Resolution Systems Institute and expanding his own knowledge base while serving as a Board Member.

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Perhaps the most surprising finding is that when more time was spent in caucus the parties were less likely to believe that they could work with the other party to resolve their conflict or that they had multiple options for resolving it. This was measured as a shift in attitude from before the mediation to after it, and was true even after accounting for differences in complexity and tractability of the conflict.

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The research included pre-mediation surveys of the parties, observations of each session and post-mediation surveys. The mediators were also surveyed and case data was obtained six months after the last mediation session.

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