



## Making Civility Contagious

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**A**busive, bombastic, and antagonistic behavior are characteristics that reflect poorly upon the individual attorney and demean our legal profession.

These characteristics also impede communication and the open exchange of ideas and information.

In the field of conflict resolution, these characteristics are anathema to the orderly processes of ADR and reduce the opportunity for successful outcomes.

It is therefore important to JAMS that ABOTA's "Civility Matters" initiative is so successful that all lawyers who appear in future JAMS proceedings are inculcated with the principles of ethics and civility, the cornerstones of successful advocacy.

The JAMS Foundation is a non-profit organization solely funded

through donations of JAMS neutrals and associate personnel. No donations are accepted from outside interests. The JAMS Foundation is dedicated to funding ADR-related programs designed to maximize the spread of effective dispute resolution programs and to improve the mechanisms for dispute resolution.

The JAMS Foundation's grant to the ABOTA Foundation's "Civility Matters" program is an investment in hammering home to law students, bar associations, Inns of Court, trade associations, and all manner, make, and kind of attorneys that advocacy in the courtroom, arbitration proceeding, special master hearing and mediation forum benefits from participants who embrace high ethics and civil conduct.

JAMS has a self interest in the success of the "Civility Matters"

initiative because our neutrals have found that ADR processes are enhanced — and the percentage of successful, efficacious outcomes are increased — when the parties' advocates comport themselves to the highest standards of our profession. Professional-acting advocates make for pleasant ADR processes which in turn make for happy JAMS neutrals. Successful ADR outcomes make for happy clients who will avail themselves of ADR processes to resolve their future disputes.

In summary, behaviors affect outcomes. It is the JAMS Foundation's hope that the ABOTA Foundation's initiative will prove contagious among the members of the legal profession. Civility Matters!