

Resolute Systems to administer CRDI, expand diversity initiative nationally

MILWAUKEE – March 10, 2010 – Resolute Systems, LLC and Capital University Law School are pleased to announce an agreement to transfer the administration and facilitation of the Conflict Resolution Diversity Initiative (CRDI) exclusively to Resolute Systems. Capital University began the CRDI as a pilot in February 2009 with Darden Restaurants being its sole participant. CRDI was created as a collaborative effort between Capital University and Darden. The initiative, the first of its kind in the country, seeks to address the under-representation of minority neutrals in Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) matters, by intentionally creating panels of qualified minority neutrals. CRDI primarily focuses on corporations with ADR programs who are serious about partnering with vendors committed to increasing diversity.

"What we found after almost 15 years of administering employment ADR cases nationwide through various national facilitation services, was that the neutrals selected in our cases were not regularly representative of our diverse employee population," says Melissa Ingalsbe, Director of Dispute Resolution for Darden. "CRDI provided an intentional mechanism to ensure that the neutrals we use to administer our cases reflect the diversity of our workforce. We were extremely pleased with the outcome of our participation with CRDI and Capital University and look forward to continuing to use CRDI with the transition to Resolute Systems. During the pilot, the cases administered through CRDI compared to those administered through other national services during the same time period, were settled with more frequency, more quickly and for less cost."

Floyd Weatherspoon, Professor of Law at Capital University, arbitrator, mediator and speaker, was the primary partner with Darden in implementing CRDI. "For numerous years, I have worked to bring attention to the very real fact that people of color are under-represented as neutrals in the alternative dispute resolution arena. As a person of color myself, I am fortunate to have regular assignments as a neutral. Unfortunately, that is not the norm. Through Capital University Law School, we have trained numerous minority mediators and arbitrators to be prepared to handle cases. However, opportunities through the normal channels of national facilitation panels are frustratingly complicated to either become a part of or from which to get regular assignments. CRDI is unique because it creates an intentional medium by which to ensure that people of color, who are qualified to serve as neutrals, will have a higher probability of being selected to serve on cases and build on their experience."

For Resolute Systems, which has been facilitating ADR cases nationally for more than 20 years, CRDI is a natural fit to bring into its organization. "We are honored that CRDI has chosen Resolute Systems to grow the program nationally, thereby increasing opportunities for minority neutrals to be selected as neutrals in ADR proceedings," says Michael Weinzierl, Vice President for Resolute Systems. "Resolute Systems has always been proactive in ensuring our pool of neutrals is diverse. CRDI is a unique forum and an incredible opportunity to further grow our pool of diverse neutrals."

Weatherspoon is equally excited to transition the administration of CRDI to Resolute Systems. "As we seek to grow CRDI to allow more opportunities for minority neutrals, the best way to do that is with a national presence. Resolute Systems is capable of providing the platform, experience and resources to do that."

Companies or neutrals interested in learning more about CRDI are encouraged to contact Michael Weinzierl at 800-776-6060, ext. 125, or mweinzierl@resolutesystems.com by e-mail.

About Resolute Systems, LLC

Resolute Systems, LLC provides mediation, arbitration and ADR consulting services to its clients throughout the United States and Canada. Established in 1988, Resolute maintains a panel of more than 2,800 mediators and arbitrators who resolve thousands of civil disputes annually. Resolute programs are designed to help its clients save time, money and resources through the fair and expedient resolution of civil disputes.

About Capital University Law School

Capital University Law School was founded in 1903 as part of a national program sponsored by the YMCA that sought to make legal education practical, accessible and affordable. It enrolls approximately 700 students through its three degree programs – Juris Doctor, Master of Laws, and a Masters in Taxation. The Law School has a national reputation for innovation and training in the field of dispute resolution and established its Center for Dispute Resolution in 1984.

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