



RULES OF THE FEE DISPUTE RESOLUTION COMMITTEE OF THE  
BAR ASSOCIATION OF BALTIMORE CITY

(Approved May 12, 1992)

(Revised November 24, 1992; December 6, 1994; December 2, 1997;  
May 18, 1998; January 19, 2000; February 6, 2013)

PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of the Fee Dispute Resolution Committee is to provide, without fee to either party, for the expeditious resolution of disputes involving fees charged or shared:
  - (a) within the attorney-client relationship;
  - (b) by attorneys acting in their professional capacity where the fee dispute arises out of a professional relationship other than that of attorney-client; and
  - (c) by attorneys sharing fees with other attorneys.

COMMITTEE

- 2.1 The Fee Dispute Resolution Committee ("Committee") is hereby constituted as a Special Committee of the Bar Association of Baltimore City ("Association"). The Committee will consist of a minimum of five members. One member shall be designated as Chairperson appointed by the President of the Association in accordance with the procedures of the Association for appointing members of Special Committees and the designation of Chairpersons thereof.
- 2.2 All Committee members shall be members in good standing with the Association.
- 2.3 The Committee shall be charged with the responsibility of overseeing the work of mediation and arbitration; formulating rules of procedure and developing policy to improve the quality of operation of this fee dispute mechanism; and to promote this service of the Association.

SECRETARY

- 3.1 The Secretary shall be a member of the executive staff of the Association.
- 3.2 The Secretary shall keep records of all proceedings of the Committee and Hearing Panels; shall be responsible for receiving all correspondence, pleadings, exhibits, etc. from and filing same by all parties to a dispute; shall schedule proceedings and send

appropriate notice of the same to all parties; shall institute a docket system for all arbitration proceedings; and perform those duties specifically set forth in these Rules or at the direction of the Committee.

## JURISDICTION

- 4.1 The Committee shall have jurisdiction in disputes, as described in Rule 1.1 hereof, involving an attorney who (a) maintains an office for the practice of law in the City of Baltimore regardless of whether s/he is a member of the Association; (b) is a member of the Association; or (c) represented a client residing in Baltimore City involving a case arising or litigated in a Baltimore City proceeding. The Committee's jurisdiction shall also include matters wherein all parties consent to fee arbitration pursuant to Rules 7.1 - 7.4 herein.
- 4.2 The Committee shall have jurisdiction in fee disputes between a client and an attorney who is a member of the Lawyer Referral and Information Service of the Association, when the attorney-client relationship is the result of a referral to the attorney.

## AUTHORITY

- 5.1 Any party filing a Petition or Response with the Committee of the Association shall agree to its jurisdiction and to abide by these Rules.
- 5.2 Upon the filing of a consent agreement to arbitrate, both parties shall be bound by the Maryland Uniform Arbitration Act, Annotated Code of Maryland, CJ 3-201 et seq.
- 5.3 As used herein, a period of time designated as seven days or less shall mean business days; any longer period of time shall mean calendar days.

