

# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts



## A Proclamation

*Whereas, the people of Massachusetts often find themselves in legal disputes arising out of one or more aspects of life - family, workplace, community, business or otherwise; and*

*Whereas, Our people are best served when many options for resolving conflicts are available to them and are particularly well served when they select the most appropriate dispute resolution process for their specific circumstances and disputes; and*

*Whereas, There is a growing demand for different approaches and dispute resolution processes that are tailored to specific dispute situational needs including Mediation, Arbitration, Collaborative Law, Settlement Counsel, Early Neutral Case Evaluation, Restorative Justice, Community Mediation, Conciliation and other approaches; and*

*Whereas, Much of the public is unaware of the many dispute resolution process options that exist, how they work, and as such, there is a growing need to educate the public, the legal community, the judiciary and the legislature about these processes, how they work, how to access them and when they can be used; and*

*Whereas, These conflict resolution alternatives are offered on several levels to respond to different needs - straightforward to complex and commercial disputes, and are available through the efforts of the courts of the Commonwealth, community-based conflict resolution programs and private practitioner neutrals; and*

*Now, Therefore, I, Charles D. Baker, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017, to be,*

## DISPUTE RESOLUTION DAY

*And urge all the citizens of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.*

*Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this Nineteenth Day of October, in the year two thousand and seventeen, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-first.*

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

Handwritten signature of Charles D. Baker in black ink.

CHARLES D. BAKER  
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

Handwritten signature of Karyn E. Polito in black ink.

KARYN E. POLITO  
LT. GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

Handwritten signature of William Francis Galvin in black ink.

WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN  
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts