

## INSURANCE COMPANIES SIGN ON TO CPR'S SEPT. 11 COMMITMENT

The CPR Institute for Dispute Resolution announced in early December that nine major insurance companies have agreed to resolve disputes between one another over Sept. 11 disaster matters via negotiation and mediation.

The CPR Inter-Insurer Dispute Resolution Commitment was signed by the companies on behalf of themselves and 59 subsidiaries; more signatories are expected.

The disputes covered under the commitment involve coverage cases stemming from the terrorism attacks that resulted in deaths at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and in Pennsylvania. By signing the commitment, the companies pledge to negotiate for 45 days, then mediate, rather than head directly for the courts.

The "insurance industry stands to be particularly hard hit by the horrific events of Sept. 11," says CPR President and *Alternatives'* publisher Thomas J. Stipanowich. "These events gave rise to an enormous number of claims of all kinds, aggregating billions of dollars. Many will involve more than one insurer—in subrogation, excess or otherwise. The idea is to address any disagreement between insurance companies quickly, inexpensively and without court rulings that might have a long-lasting impact on the industry."

In a Dec. 10 article on the commitment in the *Wall Street Journal*, Brian C. Stahl, vice president of liability claims for signatory Royal & SunAlliance, a Charlotte, N.C., unit of U.K.-based Royal & SunAlliance Group PLC, noted, "any time you have large, catastrophic losses like on Sept. 11, numerous insurance companies enter the picture . . . and there are numerous ways the companies can come into dispute over coverage."

In addition to Royal & SunAlliance, the signatories include Allstate Insurance Co.; Chubb Group of Insurance Cos.; CNA; Fireman's Fund Insurance Cos.; Great American Insurance Co.; Kemper Insurance Cos.; Nationwide Insurance Co.; and Risk Enterprise Management Ltd. 

### HELP SOUGHT FOR CPR STUDY ON MEDIATION SCREEN

CPR is studying the use of mediation for particular cases, and is seeking help from members.

The study uses the recently released CPR Mediation Analysis Screen as a base to assess the relevance and reliability of select factors.


CPR is teaming with Rutgers University and the California Administrative Office of the Courts to conduct the study, which will continue in various forms throughout 2002.

To participate, complete the 31-item CPR Mediation Analysis Screen for a recent civil case. It will take about 15 minutes. The screen is available in the Members Only section of the CPR Web site at [www.cpradr.org](http://www.cpradr.org).

Here are the specific steps to participate:

- 1) Click on the Members Only link on the home page.
- 2) On the Members Only page, click on the link for the new ADR Suitability Screen. Then, on the screen's page, click on "Use The Interactive 31 Question CPR Mediation Screen Worksheet." Print out the worksheet.
- 3) On the printout, complete the questions with regard to either a current or recently completed civil matter that you or your firm has handled.
- 4) Please fax your completed screen to "CPR Public Policy Projects, Attention: K. Scanlon." The fax number is (212) 949-8859. You do not need to sign or identify yourself on the completed screen.

Questions about the screen can be directed to CPR Vice President Kathleen M. Scanlon at [kscanlon@cpradr.org](mailto:kscanlon@cpradr.org).

Members Only passwords have been distributed to organizations' ADR Counsel; for more information, E-mail [info@cpradr.org](mailto:info@cpradr.org). 

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