

Guidance for Registration on LACIAC's Panel of Neutrals

The LACIAC Panel of Neutrals:

LACIAC is a user-friendly centre which administers the resolution of disputes arising in different industry sectors, including energy (oil & gas, mining, power, renewables) construction, agriculture, manufacturing, banking and financial services and Information and Communication Technology, etc.

LACIAC maintains a Panel of Neutrals composed of arbitrators, mediators, adjudicators, experts, and other Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) practitioners. You may be listed in different categories within the Panel, depending on your professional expertise, experience and dispute resolution expertise.

1. **Professional expertise:** this refers to the particular discipline(s) in which you have expertise, e.g. energy (oil & gas, mining, power, renewables) construction, agriculture, manufacturing, banking and financial services and Information and Communication Technology, etc.
2. **Experience:** this refers to your level of seniority within the given field of expertise. There are three categories of experience: (i) senior practitioners (above 10 years); (ii) young practitioners (above five years) and (iii) very young practitioners (five years and below).
3. **Dispute resolution expertise:** LACIAC offers four main types of dispute resolution services:
 - (i) *Arbitration:* this is similar to court proceedings in that it is a dispute resolution process aimed at determining which party is right or wrong on any given issue, and it culminates in a final and binding decision (an “award”) which may be enforced against the losing party. However it is different from a court process because it is conducted by “private judges” who are known as arbitrators, and whose services are paid for by the parties (unlike regular judges whose services are paid for by the State). An arbitrator may be a lawyer, engineer, quantity surveyor, architect or any other similar profession. LACIAC usually requires that you possess a formal arbitration qualification (such as qualifications conferred by the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators – CI Arb) as a condition to be listed under the “arbitrator” category.
 - (ii) *Mediation:* the objective of mediation is not to determine which party is right or wrong, but to assist the parties to reach a settlement of their dispute on agreed terms. The agreed terms will be documented in a “settlement agreement”. LACIAC usually requires that you possess a

formal mediation qualification (such as qualifications conferred by the CIArb or the Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution (CEDR)) as a condition to be listed under the “mediator” category.

- (iii) *Adjudication*: this service is typically used for construction projects, and is aimed at obtaining non-final “interim” decisions (typically decisions regarding payments on invoices) pending a more final resolution in arbitration or litigation. An adjudicator may be an engineer, architect, a lawyer, quantity surveyor or other similar professional.

- (iv) *Expert Determination*: this is a process that is similar to litigation and arbitration only in the sense that it is aimed at determining which party is right and which party is wrong on any given issue, and it culminates in a final and binding decision. However, it is different from litigation because it is conducted not by a judge but by an expert in the relevant field of dispute whose service is paid for by the parties. It is different from arbitration because it involves very little or no procedural formalities, and a decision is usually given within a very short time frame. Any person who has qualifications and experience in the relevant field of dispute may serve as an expert.

No professional qualification is required to be listed in the “adjudicator” or “expert” categories, and no fees are required to be paid to be listed on LACIAC’s Panel of Neutrals. However LACIAC encourages professionals listed on its panel of neutrals to join LACIAC, so that they may enjoy free or discounted access to LACIAC trainings and events. For more information on membership of LACIAC, its benefits and how to register, please click [here](#).

The admission process:

1. Kindly fill out the Panel of Neutrals form attached.

2. Once completed kindly send back to the secretariat via email - info@laciac.org

3. Please note that your application will be considered and reviewed by the LACIAC Neutrals Selection Committee, a subcommittee of LACIAC’s Court of Arbitration.

4. You will be notified by the Secretariat on the status of your application within a week, from the day your application is submitted.

We look forward to welcoming you on board our Panel of Neutrals.