



2026 ANNUAL MEETING

MARCH 11-14, 2026

THE INTERNATIONAL HOUSE, BERKELEY, CA

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

A scenic photograph of the Berkeley skyline at sunset. The clock tower of the University of California, Berkeley is prominent in the foreground. In the background, the San Francisco skyline is visible across the water, including the Transamerica Pyramid and the Golden Gate Bridge. The sky is filled with orange and pink clouds.

BERKELEY, CA



ALL ABOUT ACAN

The Academy of Court-Appointed Neutrals® (ACAN®) is an independent organization whose members have dedicated themselves to helping:

- People become court-appointed neutrals
- Court-appointed neutrals become better and
- The profession better serve justice

ACAN is at the forefront of thinking about:

- how to broaden and diversify the profession
- how to train and mentor new professionals
- how to make the profession as useful as possible for promoting the administration of justice
- how to improve selection of neutrals
- how to improve professional standards
- how to neutrals can help courts address the many challenges that face our system of justice.

WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO?

In this past year, ACAN has, among other things:

- Worked with other organizations to create the first ever all-day program on court-appointed neutral ethics.
- Continued to work on the efforts to substitute “court-appointed neutral” for “master” in rules and to permit the use of neutrals in bankruptcy.
- Welcomed the second class into the ACAN Incubator Program designed to assist people to join the profession and received training and mentoring.
- Begun new initiatives in all of ACAN’s Committees.
- Presented more than a dozen programs and presentations for other organizations on the use of court-appointed neutrals and authored dozens more posts, articles, podcasts that are helping to rethink the profession of neutrals who are appointed to serve the administration of justice.
- Broadened the “How Can ACAN Help” program to help more courts.
- Used nearly \$20,000 in sponsor-funded scholarships to assist people to participate in ACAN programming and events without regard to need.
- Conducted monthly ACAN First Wednesday Forums in which our members from across the country discuss issues of concern in an informal and interactive session.
- Started a social media series with a “Weekly Reason to Join ACAN.”
- Welcomed dozens of new members to the organization and expanded the member benefits and resources available to them.
- Conducted an incredibly successful 20th anniversary annual meeting in Washington, DC.
- Increased the number and fields represented by ACAN’s sponsors.

OUR 2026 ANNUAL MEETING

ACAN's 2026 Annual Meeting will be a unique experience. ACAN will be doing the program in conjunction with the Berkeley Judicial Institute, whose director, Hon. Jeremy Fogel (Ret.), is a former state and federal judge and former Director of the Federal Judicial Center. The Berkeley Judicial Institute exists to work with the judiciary to promote professional competence, judicial independence, ethics and advance our thinking on dispute resolution. We expect to have the broadest representation ACAN has had at its meeting of everyone who has a stake in the use of court-appointed neutrals, including not just neutrals, but judges, court staff, practitioners, vendors the ADR community, and the academic community. We are planning programming, from Wednesday, March 11, through Friday, March 13 and then a fun networking event on Saturday, March 14.

5 WAYS TO SUPPORT ACAN THIS YEAR

1. **Become an Annual Meeting Sponsor** – This sponsorship gives you exciting benefits based on your interests. The benefits include long-term recognition and levels of access to the Annual Meeting audience. In addition to inviting entities to sponsor ACAN, we are inviting individuals to contribute in exchange for sponsorship recognition.
2. **Add-On Breakfast or Lunch Sponsorship** - ACAN provides opportunities for recognition and speaking at one of four breakfast or lunch programs.
3. **Sponsor Other Training and Webinars** – ACAN has unveiled a new series of monthly zoom discussions among our members – the ACAN First Wednesday Forum – in which our members from across the country discuss issues of concern in an informal and interactive session. Session sponsors are invited to meet attendees by participating in the discussion, which is recorded and made available for those members who could not attend.
4. **Support the ACAN Scholarship Fund** - We have established a scholarship program to help ensure that financial restrictions do not prevent people from joining the organization and participating in our exciting training programs.
5. **Have your representatives become ACAN Associate Members** - ACAN has created this category of membership in part to permit our sponsors to participate in ACAN activities without themselves being court-appointed neutrals. Becoming an ACAN Associate affords an opportunity to participate in ACAN Committees and receive member-only mailings. The annual fee for ACAN Associates is \$400. Individuals can become an ACAN Associate by applying [here](#).



SPONSOR LEVELS & BENEFITS

PLATINUM SPONSORSHIP

\$18,000

- Recognized as Title Annual Meeting Sponsor
- Four (4) Annual Meeting registrations with access to all events
- 10-minute speaking opportunity before an audience of members and associate members
- One (1) table for marketing materials in prime location during event
- Attendee list sent post-event
- One (1) marketing piece included in attendee packets
- Highlighted on Annual Meeting website
- Year-long recognition on ACAN's website
- Highlighted on ACAN's social media
- Sponsor recognition in slides at event
- Sponsor recognition in introduction by ACAN Board Member
- Highlighted as Sponsor in Annual Meeting literature
- Sponsor recognition in Annual Meeting emails
- Logo featured on Sponsor signage at event
- Sponsor ribbon for name badge

GOLD SPONSORSHIP

\$12,500

- Recognized as Cocktail Reception Sponsor
- Three (3) annual meeting registrations with access to all events
- One (1) table for marketing materials in prime location during event
- Attendee list sent post-event
- Recognized on Annual Meeting website at attendee registration
- Year-long recognition on ACAN's website
- Recognized on ACAN's social media
- Sponsor recognition in slides at event
- Recognized as Sponsor in Annual Meeting literature
- Sponsor recognition in Annual Meeting emails
- Logo included on Sponsor signage at event
- Sponsor ribbon for name badge

SPONSOR LEVELS & BENEFITS CONT.

SILVER SPONSORSHIP

\$6,000

- Two (2) Annual Meeting registrations
- Opportunity to send branded material for check-in table
- Attendee list sent post-event
- Thanked on Annual Meeting website
- Year-long recognition on ACAN's website
- Thanked on ACAN's social media
- Sponsor recognition in slides at event
- Recognized as Sponsor in Annual Meeting literature
- Sponsor recognition in Annual Meeting emails
- Logo included in Sponsor signage at event
- Sponsor ribbon for name badge

BRONZE SPONSORSHIP

\$3,000

- One (1) Annual Meeting registration
- Attendee list sent post-event
- Thanked on Annual Meeting website
- Year-long recognition on ACAN's website
- Thanked on ACAN's social media
- Sponsor recognition in slides at event
- Recognized as Sponsor in Annual Meeting literature
- Sponsor recognition in Annual Meeting emails
- Company included in Sponsor signage at event
- Sponsor ribbon for name badge

ADD-ON A BREAKFAST OR LUNCH SPONSORSHIP

Add-on to any sponsorship: \$5,000

ACAN has four meal functions that are available to add-on to a sponsorship. These functions are an essential time for network among colleagues.

- Named as official sponsor of that meal function
- Five (5) minute speaking opportunity before an audience of members and associate members during the meal
- Exclusive signage with logo at the meal



OPPORTUNITIES BEYOND THE ANNUAL MEETING

ACAN FIRST WEDNESDAY FORUM

\$3,000

The ACAN First Wednesday Forum is a monthly informal webinar in which members can discuss ethics and other practical concerns about being a court-appointed neutral. We are looking for sponsor partners to join these discussions and add their own perspectives on the issues.

- Sponsor featured on event promotions and reminders to ACAN membership and on LinkedIn
- Sponsor invited to attend the Forum
- Sponsor recognized at the beginning of the Forum and given the opportunity to speak and participate in the discussion.

For more information, contact ACAN Executive Director Merrill Hirsh merril@merrilhirsh.com.

BECOME AN ASSOCIATE MEMBER

\$400 membership

ACAN Associates are people who are not currently interested in serving as neutrals but who are interested in advancing the neutral profession and can include active judges. Associate fees are \$400 a year and entitle Associates to participate in ACAN activities and receive discounts on ACAN training and resources.

ACAN SCHOLARSHIP FUND

All donations accepted

ACAN created this extraordinary scholarship fund with the aid of sponsors who share our desire to make the benefits of ACAN membership, training and events available to people who otherwise couldn't afford it. Your contribution to this fund helps us to invest today in extraordinarily talented members so that the future will see them give back this benefit many times over to our profession and the administration of justice.

DON'T JUST TAKE OUR WORD FOR IT

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"Milestone is proud to support ACAN, as our partnership uniquely aligns business strategy with our commitment to supporting the plaintiff. Through our sponsorship, Milestone has gained a platform to engage with a distinct intersection of judges, practitioners, and ADR experts whose work stands to benefit from our services and technology. ACAN is unlike any other legal professionals organization out there."

Amy Fogle, Milestone

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"I attend many large conferences of lawyers. It is hard to escape the 'noise' of the many attendees who are not the decision makers. ACAN's conferences, instead, have the Neutrals, Judges and Mediators who organize, settle and administer cases. My attendance has paid great benefits to my company."

Kirk Wood, The Blalock Group

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"Our service provides claimant government benefit protection in mass tort settlements. The ACAN Conference helped get the "word out" to those who design and administer settlements: the Court-Appointed Neutrals, Judges and Mediators who attended."

Mark Newton, TORT IQ

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"MASSIVE is lien resolution company, a critical part of any mass personal injury settlement. Our service functions to protect and assist all sides of a settlement, including the neutrals. ACAN conference have introduced our services to claims administrators, judges, and neutrals who create and administer the large-scale settlements we strive to be a part of. ACAN's conferences are a must-attend event for any company that wants to be engaged in mass tort services."

Ryan Weiner, MASSIVE: Medical and Subrogation Specialists

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"Huntington Bank is proud to sponsor ACAN. The organization is more energized than ever, and the group is expanding its membership base across the country. We are impressed with the professionalism of ACAN and its members, and we are humbled to be involved. As a service provider in the legal industry, we believe it's important to support ACAN's continued growth and development."

Chris Ritchie, Huntington Bank

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SUPPORT ACAN TODAY!

The earlier you sign up,
the more exposure you'll get!

[CLAIM YOUR SPONSORSHIP](#)

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