

## Oregon Business Arbitration Program Launched

In response to the increasing demand by Oregon business people and their attorneys for a speedy and inexpensive alternative to litigation to resolve disputes, the American Arbitration Association (AAA) has developed the Oregon Business Arbitration Program, announced Patrick Mead, regional vice president for the AAA's Seattle regional office.

Arbitration is the voluntary submission of a dispute to an independent neutral person or persons for a final and binding decision. The Oregon Business Arbitration Rules were developed specifically to meet the overwhelming demand by Oregon disputants and their attorneys for an inexpensive and efficient forum to

resolve business disputes. The program allows for lower filing fees, and expedited arbitrator selection process, rules of discovery and the freedom to communicate directly with the arbitrator for the fastest possible solution.

"The AAA's new rules have been introduced alongside the Association's more traditional procedures, which still offered for all clients that continue to prefer traditional benefits and safeguards of the AAA's Commercial Arbitration procedures," said Mr. Mead.

Under the new rules, disputants will select an arbitrator, or a panel of three arbitrators, from the AAA Or-

egon panel or the AAA's national panel of arbitrators, both consisting of recognized and respected attorneys, retired judges and business professionals.

Founded in 1926, the American Arbitration Association is a public service, not-for-profit organization dedicated to the resolution of disputes through arbitration, mediation, democratic election, and other voluntary methods. The AAA also offers education and training programs each year throughout the organization's 35 regional offices.

For more information regarding the Oregon Business Arbitration Rules or other AAA services, please call 1-800-559-3222.

## Mayor Wants To Improve Diversity

Mayor Vera Katz is inviting Portlanders from all walks of life to apply for openings on the city's 45 boards and commissions.

"We're committed to making our boards and commissions reflective of the community-at-large," said Katz.

The appointees make recommendations to city officials on issues ranging from neighborhood livability to public safety and downtown development.

Katz encouraged people interested in serving to contact the office of neighborhood associations at 823-4519. The association will provide citizens with interest forms to fill out and pass them on to the city commissioners who will then make recom-

mendations when positions become available.



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## Volunteer Internship For Mediation And Facilitation

**T**he Neighborhood Mediation Center (NMC) is looking for volunteers who are trained and/or experienced in mediation and facilitation.

NMC will provide additional training to the selected volunteers and, in return, the Mediation Center is asking for a year-long, three-hour per week volunteer commitment.

The training and year-long internship will provide opportunities for the volunteers to work in the entire continuum of the mediation process including extensive case-development, observation of mediations and co-mediating neighbor-to-neighbor disputes. Neighbor-to-neighbor disputes include problems of noise, e.g., barking dogs and loud stereos; parking, e.g., shared driveways and limited space on streets; disputed boundaries; vandalism; interpersonal disputes; property maintenance disagreements and harassment. There will also be opportunities to co-mediate multi-party disputes.

Opportunities will include fa-

ilitating various kinds of neighborhood meetings as well as meetings sponsored by other city agencies. Additional opportunities for specializing in issues relating to low-income and special needs housing will be available in coordination of the Bureau of Housing and Community Development.

This training will be provided at a cost of \$20.00 per person. Applications are available at the Bureau of Housing and Community Development, 800 SW Third, Suite 600; the Neighborhood Mediation Center, 4815 NE Seventh; and the Office of Neighborhood Associations (ONA), City Hall, 1220 S.W. Fifth Ave., Rm 204.

For more information, call Julien Minard at the Portland Neighborhood Mediation Center at 823-3152 or Rachael Silverman at the Bureau of Housing and Community Development at 823-2378. Scholarships will be available based on need. Applications must be postmarked no later than Friday, Sept. 30, 1994.

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