

USE OF ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION (ADR) TO RESOLVE REPRISAL CLAIM

A NASA employee filed a whistleblower complaint pursuant to both Presidential Policy Directive – 19 (PPD-19) and the Inspector General Act. After a bit of “shuttle diplomacy,” the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Office of Inspector General (NASA-OIG) was able to obtain relief for the whistleblower using ADR.

This case began when a management official suspended and recommended revocation of the whistleblower’s security clearance for allegedly lying when s/he disclosed information to a NASA-OIG agent during an investigation. Upon suspension of the security clearance, NASA management also transferred the whistleblower to another (less favorable) position that did not require a security clearance.

Once NASA management and the whistleblower agreed to ADR, NASA-OIG acted as an intermediary/mediator and shuttled back and forth between the parties. As a result, NASA management and the whistleblower reached a settlement satisfactory to all making the whistleblower whole.