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## Signature Resolution Expands To East Coast With Firm Tie-Up

By James Mills

*Law360 (March 13, 2026, 4:55 PM EDT)* -- California-based alternative dispute resolution service Signature Resolution announced Friday it is expanding to the East Coast, partnering with Commonwealth Mediation and Conciliation Inc., a Boston-based ADR firm.

CMCI — which has three offices in Massachusetts and nine neutrals on staff --- will join the Signature Resolution network this month. The partnership marks 9-year-old Signature Resolution's first venture outside the Golden State as it pursues a goal of becoming a national provider of ADR services.

"CMCI is a perfect fit for Signature Resolution," Dario Higuchi, founder and CEO of Signature Resolution, told Law360 in a Friday interview. "We want to take our neutral-centric approach to dispute resolution services to a national level and this is the first step toward that."

Meanwhile, Paul Finn, CMCI's founder and CEO, said he thinks that joining Signature will allow his group to offer greater services to clients.

"I wanted the ability to assist parties on a larger scale, and to work with an organization that I knew was first-class to do so," Finn said in a statement. "Signature Resolution has the same standard for exceptional service and results that we do, and the resources we need to serve our neutrals and their clients on such a high level."

According to Higuchi, Signature and CMCI have co-mediated several cases. At one point, Finn came to the West Coast for a mediation, was impressed with Signature and suggested they should work together.

Signature has long had ambitions of expanding beyond California to the East Coast. So over the past year, the two organizations have been talking about a partnership.

"We can try to replicate what we've done in California on the East Coast via a very neutral-centric platform that gets the best people to join. The reason why they are the best is they get results," Higuchi said. "So, it's a results-driven, neutral-centric approach to dispute resolution. It obviously has worked very well for us here in California, and we think it will on the East Coast, as well."

For now, the CMCI offices will continue to operate under the CMCI name, but will eventually switch over to the Signature Resolution name, Higuchi said.

CMCI was founded in 1992 and currently has two offices in the Boston area and one in the Springfield Massachusetts. All nine of the neutrals currently with CMCI are expected to join Signature.

Higuchi reported two more neutrals are about to join CMCI, putting it at a total of 11 neutrals.

Meanwhile, Signature Resolution was founded in 2017 with the goal of offering premium-level services to its clients, to be the "the Four Seasons of the mediation world, the Ritz-Carlton of the mediation world," as Higuchi phrased it in a 2025 interview.

Signature currently has over 100 neutrals on its roster. It has seven California offices: downtown Los Angeles, Century City, San Diego, Oakland, Santa Clara, San Francisco and Bakersfield, plus virtual services in several other areas.

This is not Signature's first partnership with an existing ADR service. In April 2025, Signature joined **forces** with Bakersfield-based Common Ground Resolutions, thereby giving Signature its first foray into California's Central Valley.

Higuchi reported that Signature will soon be announcing offices in Orange County and Sacramento, as well as more East Coast ventures.

--Editing by Amy French.