

# REBA DISPUTE RESOLUTION, INC.

*A Subsidiary of the Real Estate Bar Association for Massachusetts*

## ***About REBA Dispute Resolution, Inc.***

REBA Dispute Resolution, Inc. (REBA/DR) was established to meet the growing needs of current and future real estate and transactional practice. By combining the talents and resources of senior Association members, who are highly recognized in their field of expertise--including retired Appeals Court, Housing Court, Superior Court and Land Court judges--with a respected 150-year-old state-wide bar association dedicated to excellence, REBA/DR brings much needed specialized dispute resolution alternatives to the legal and real estate communities as well as the general public.

Founded in 1995 and incorporated in early 1996, REBA Dispute Resolution emerged from the Association's strategic planning initiatives in the early 1990's. It is a wholly-owned subsidiary of The Real Estate Bar Association for Massachusetts, Inc., an M.G.L. c. 180 not-for-profit corporation.

REBA Dispute Resolution is the only dispute resolution provider in Massachusetts with a long-established franchise and a high level of name recognition concentrating in real estate and business disputes and bringing a market-driven philosophy to DR management.

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## ***Mediation ~ Steps to Settlement***

- ◆ A conflict arises involving some aspect of real estate.
- ◆ Parties to the conflict, together with their counsel, choose mediation as an alternative to costly litigation and time-consuming court trial.
- ◆ Parties select a neutral mediator and set a date for mediation. The parties share the cost of mediation.
- ◆ Parties and/or their counsel prepare a short summary outlining the issues in the dispute. This summary is usually about two pages.
- ◆ The neutral mediates the dispute with all involved parties.
- ◆ At the conclusion of the mediation, settlement is often accomplished and an agreement is drafted.

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## ***Mediation vs. Arbitration***

**Mediation** is a voluntary, confidential process in which a neutral is invited or accepted by disputing parties to assist them in identifying and discussing issues of mutual concern, exploring various solutions, and developing a settlement mutually acceptable to the disputing parties.

**Arbitration** is a process in which a neutral, after hearing arguments and reviewing evidence, renders a binding decision. Parties may also elect **Arbitration with the Option to Appeal**, which allows them to appeal the Arbitrator's decision to additional REBA/DR neutrals.