

# SARAH J. READ

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## LAW

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Law Offices of Sarah J. Read, Columbia, MO  
2000-present

Solo practice with focus on alternative dispute resolution, mediation, arbitration, negotiation, legislation, and law practice management. Cases have included multi-party mediations involving issues of development and public policy, cases with regulated entities, and high conflict cases. Also teaching Law Practice Management and, when offered, Public Policy Dispute Resolution at the University of Missouri School of Law as an adjunct professor. See [www.readadr.com](http://www.readadr.com).

Sidley Austin LLP, Chicago, IL  
2000-2007 *Senior Counsel*; 1990-1999 *Partner*; 1988-1990 *Associate*

Member of the Alternative Dispute Resolution resource group and the Commercial, Competition and Securities Litigation group. Representations included work as resolution counsel on contested commercial and regulatory matters, including complex multi-party disputes; negotiation counsel on various transactional matters; consulting on regulatory issues and strategic plans; legislative drafting and lobbying (including work on the “Electric Service Customer Choice and Rate Relief Law of 1997” that restructured the electric industry in Illinois); regulatory litigation; and coordination of local counsel on multistate transactional matters. Litigated several cases before state regulatory commissions and in the appellate courts.

Isham, Lincoln & Beale (dissolved), Chicago, IL  
1981-1988 *Associate*

Represented electric and telecommunications companies before regulatory commissions in several states, both as lead and assistant hearing counsel. Appointed in 1984 to serve as interexchange carriers’ representative on the Ohio Telecommunications Advisory Board. Represented corporate creditors in preference and other adversary proceedings in U.S. bankruptcy courts. Assisted in drafting the Illinois “Universal Telephone Protection Law of 1985.” Participated in recruiting and associate training.

## CONSULTING

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The Communications Center Inc., Columbia, MO  
President, 2003-present

A consulting firm providing consulting, coaching and facilitation services. Working with individuals, communities, professional firms, non-profits and other organizations to improve thinking and communication skills.

See [www.buildingdialogue.com](http://www.buildingdialogue.com), [www.buildingdialogue.wordpress.com](http://www.buildingdialogue.wordpress.com).

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## BAR ADMISSIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS

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ADMITTED: Missouri Supreme Court, 1999  
Illinois Supreme Court, 1981  
Northern District of Illinois, 1981  
N.D. Illinois Federal Trial Bar, 1986  
Wisconsin Supreme Court, 1981  
Western District of Wisconsin, 1981

MEMBER: American Bar Association  
Chicago Bar Association  
State Bar of Wisconsin  
The Missouri Bar

## PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS, RECOGNITIONS

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Missouri Supreme Court Commission on Alternative Dispute Resolution, 2009-2014  
Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory, AV Preeminent™ rating, 15 year award, 2012  
Highest rating for integrity and ability.  
Commercial Panel of Neutrals, American Arbitration Association 2003-present  
The Missouri Bar  
■ ADR Committee, Chair, 2006-2007; Co-Chair, 2007-2008 & 2005-2006; Vice Chair, 2004-2005; Member, 2001-present  
Association of Missouri Mediators President's Award, October 2010; November 2007  
Chambers USA Leading Business Lawyers - Energy Law, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007  
Illinois Leading Lawyers, 2003-2007  
Illinois Commerce Commission Task Force on Rules, Practices and Procedures, 1993-95  
■ Appointed by Illinois Commerce Commission as member of task force to review and recommend revisions to rules of practice.  
Ohio Telecommunications Advisory Board, 1984  
■ Appointed to serve on six-member board created by the Ohio Public Utilities Commission to aid in the restructuring of the State's telecommunications industry following the divestiture of the Bell Operating companies by AT&T.

## EDUCATION

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*Degrees:*

Yale University, New Haven, CT — B.A., British Studies, Graduated *cum laude*, 1978

University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI — J.D., Graduated Order of the Coif, 1981

*Basic ADR Trainings Completed:*

Center for Conflict Resolution, Chicago, IL — 32 hour training in mediation, 1992

American Arbitration Association — Arbitrator I & II, 2004

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## *Selected Other ADR Trainings Completed:*

Association of Missouri Mediators, Columbia, MO — Elder Mediation Training, 2012

American Arbitration Association, New York City — Advanced Mediation Training, 2009

United States Postal Service — REDRESS Transformative Mediation Training, 2007

MIT/Harvard Public Disputes Program, Cambridge, MA — Program on Negotiation at Harvard Law School, “Dealing with an Angry Public,” 1992

Association of Missouri Mediators — Victim-Offender Dialogue Training, 2008

Association of Missouri Mediators, Jefferson City, MO — Home Construction Dispute Mediation Training, 2005

## **SELECTED PRESENTATIONS DELIVERED BY S.J. READ — ADR**

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American Bar Association Section of Dispute Resolution, 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Conference, *Unpacking, Mapping and Navigating Conflict*, April 2016; 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Conference, *Hate Hurts: Recognizing Hate and Managing Its Effects*, April 2010

The Missouri Bar, Fee Dispute Resolution Program and Complaint Resolution Program, *Mediation and Arbitration Training*, March 2013; *Lawyer to Lawyer Dispute Resolution Training*, October 2012; ADR Webinar Series, *Designing the Process*, July 2011; Fee Dispute Program Retreat, *Mediation and Arbitration Skills Training – Various Sessions*, March 2011; Complaint Resolution Program Retreat, *The Psychology of Conflict: Tools for Understanding, Coaching and Guiding*, August 2010;

Heartland Regional Conference of Mediators, *Hate Hurts: Recognizing Hate & Managing its Effects When Mediating or Facilitating*, April 2009; *Mind Games in the Public Arena Part 1: Navigating the Obstacles in Planning, Convening, and Conducting a Public Process*; *Mind Games in the Public Arena Part 2: Words Matter—Introducing and Using Dialogue Strategies in Public Policy Debates*, April 2007

Association of Missouri Mediators, Annual Conference, *Hot Topics in Mediation*, September 2012; *Psychology of Conflict: Increasing Understanding, Learning New Tools, Resolving Difficult Disputes*, October 2008

ACR Environment and Public Policy Section 2008 Conference, *Political Leadership Turnover in a Collaborative Process: Lessons for Implementation and Intervention*, May 2008

Circuit Court of Clay County, MO- Children’s Justice Center, 2008, *Introduction to Thinking Style Preferences for Mediators, Facilitators and Collaborative Practitioners*, February 2008

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## SELECTED OTHER PRESENTATIONS BY S.J. READ — PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

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Missouri Association of Counties Annual Meeting, *Holding Your Ground With Vocal Minorities and the Media*, November 2014.

Missouri Municipal League, Elected Officials Training, *Conflict Resolution*, June 2012, *Parliamentary Procedure, Citizen Dialogue, and Conflict Resolution*, June 2011; Annual Conference, *Collaborative Governance and Civic Engagement*, September 2011.

Association of Government Accountants – Central Indiana Chapter, *The Need for Accountability in Preserving Our Democracy*, Fall 2010; *Trust, Relevance and Re-engaging The Public: New Skills for Changing Times*, Fall 2011.

The American Planning Association – Missouri Chapter, *Engaging the Public in the Planning Process*, and *Political Turnover in a Collaborative Process*, October 2010

Faith and Education Collaborative Columbia, MO, “Maintaining the Unity In Community” Conference, *Civil Dialogue in an Election Year*, September, 2008

Missouri/Kansas Public Risk Management Association, *Words Matter! Re-engineering Communication Patterns to Better Manage & Minimize Risk*, April 2007

## SELECTED ARTICLES & PUBLICATIONS

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ISBN Publishing, *Dealing With Disruptors (Facilitation Analytics Book 2)*; Christoph Berendes (Ed), 2017

ISBN Publishing, *Understanding the Facilitation Cycle (Facilitation Analytics Book 1)*; Christoph Berendes (Ed), 2016

ICMA Publishing, *Civic Engagement: 10 Questions to Shape an Effective Plan*, co-authored with David Overfelt, April 2014

National Institute for Civil Discourse, *Aim Higher, Dig Deeper*, co-authored with David Overfelt, April 2013

AKA-Publishing, *Civic Health Diagnostic Workbook*, co-authored with David Overfelt, March 2013

The Missouri Municipal Review Magazine, *Deciding on Dialogue Options*, co-authored with David Overfelt, March 2011

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The Missouri Municipal Review Magazine, *Understanding Your Dialogue Options*, co-authored with David Overfelt, January, 2011

The Missouri Municipal Review Magazine, *Words Matter: Understanding Dialogue and How it Can Help You*, co-authored with David Overfelt, November 2010;

Dispute Resolution Journal, *What Would You Change About Mediation? Considering Changes From The Other Side of the Atlantic*, February/April 2010

## SELECTED COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

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Columbia Metro Rotary, Columbia, MO; President, 2016-2017; President Elect 2015-2016; Chair, Administrative Committee, 2013-2015; Co-chair, Community Service Committee, 2011-2014; Committee-Board Liaison, 2009-2010; Community Service Chair, 2007-2009, 2012-2015; Vocational Services Chair, 2005-2007

Woodhaven Learning Center, Columbia, MO; Vice President, 2014; Board Member 2012-2014

Columbia Parents for Public Schools, Columbia, MO (A grassroots organization working with parents to identify and address education policy issues in a proactive manner); *President*, 1998-2002, 2007 to present; *Board Member and Vice President*, 2002-2006; *Founding Member*, 1998

Parents for Public Schools, Jackson, MS (A national organization working with grassroots member corporations in support of public education); *Member, National Board*, 2002-2008

Columbia Faith & Education Collaborative, Columbia, MO; *Facilitator and Trainer*, 2005-2012

Human Rights Commission, Columbia, MO; *Study Circles Facilitator*, 2002-2006

First Christian Church, Columbia, MO; *Chair/Co-chair Elders*, 2011-2015; *Moderator*, 2006-2008, *Chair; Master Planning Committee*, 2009-2010

Columbia Public Schools Foundation, Columbia, MO; *Board Member*, 2006-2012 *Chair, Finance Committee* 2010-2012

Boone County Bar Association, *Partner in Education Committee Chair*, 2011-2014; *ADR Committee Chair*, 2012-2013

*Nominee*, University of Missouri- Columbia's Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr Award, 2014 and 2015. Nominated by the President of the Minority Men's Network.

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