



GCRS Government Conflict Resolution Services

Government Conflict Resolution Services (GCRS) is a program offered by the Supreme Court of Ohio to provide flexible and practical assistance in resolving and preventing conflict among public officials on various matters including, but not limited to, budget issues, public records requests and other organizational issues, without court involvement.

Services Offered

Neutral Evaluation

A process in which the parties to a dispute present their claims or defenses, and describe the principal evidence on which their claims or defenses are based, to a neutral third party who then shares his/her impressions about the strengths and weaknesses of each matter.

Mediation

A process in which a neutral third party, called a mediator, helps the parties communicate and negotiate with each other to help them reach a voluntary agreement regarding their dispute. The mediator helps the parties clarify their positions and interests, identify underlying concerns, and create practical solutions for resolving their dispute.

Facilitation

A process that focuses on the tasks needed to run a productive and impartial meeting. In facilitation, a neutral party (the facilitator) moderates discussions by ensuring the fluid and orderly exchange of information and ideas from all participants. Facilitation is primarily concerned with assisting individuals in refining their communication and organizational skills so that they may learn to work more efficiently with one another in a group setting.

What Types of Disputes does GCRS Address?

GCRS can assist in the resolution of any conflict involving public officials at the state, county, or local levels of government. Examples of disputes that may benefit from GCRS include: fiscal, budget, operations management, (planning, logistics, materials, risk management, internal controls, organizational design), public records, policy (administrative rule, internal procedures), facilities maintenance, and zoning.

Why Should I Use GCRS?

Conflict resolution processes, such as those offered through GCRS, are powerful tools that can be used to clarify communications, build stronger working relationships and reach consensus. Public officials have found that involving an impartial third party is an effective way to reach agreement and prevent disputes from escalating into unproductive, contentious impasses.

Is it Confidential?

It depends. In general, assistance provided through GCRS is confidential. However, certain public bodies or officers may be subject to Ohio's Open Meetings Act. Under such circumstances, GCRS services would not be confidential.

How Much Does it Cost?

GCRS is provided at NO COST to public officials.

Who Selects the Neutral?

Dispute Resolution Section staff will engage an appropriate third-party neutral after speaking with the parties and/or their respective representatives.

Where is GCRS Conducted?

Dispute Resolution Section staff will work with you to determine a location that is agreeable and convenient for all participants.

Get Started with GCRS TODAY!

GCRS is provided through **The Supreme Court of Ohio Dispute Resolution Section**

PHONE: 614.387.9420 | EMAIL: DisputeResolution@sc.ohio.gov

Mediation with Public Officials: What Public Officials Are Not Telling Mediators, and Tricks Public Officials Are Missing

Mark Landes, Managing Partner, Isaac Wiles

THE SUPREME COURT *of* OHIO **2020**
Dispute Resolution
Conference

FUN WITH PUBLIC OFFICIALS

What they care about



<https://images.app.goo.gl/NfBjyTCb4Qc6c1zN6>

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- What will people say?
- How can I spend this?
- Whose choice should this be?

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Is this good government?

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Case study

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Special issues:
authority to spend



<https://www.goldtouch.com/the-benefits-of-ergonomics-in-the-workplace/>

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Special issues:

The overlay of politics

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Special issues:
Confidentiality

Silence or more speech?

PUBLIC OFFICIALS

Do you want a court order?



<https://images.app.goo.gl/s2i9M8B8bg9R3PFS6>

PUBLIC OFFICIALS

Who settled?

Who was dismissed?

PUBLIC OFFICIALS

Go away and don't come back again

PUBLIC OFFICIALS

Case study

YOU GOT IT SETTLED!

Get it in writing of some kind



<https://images.app.goo.gl/nherYAJJYnfGJvM58>

YOU GOT IT SETTLED!

Who has to sign?

YOU GOT IT SETTLED!

Timing of approvals

YOU GOT IT SETTLED!

War stories from you



<https://www.shutterstock.com/search/anger+stress+icon?sort=popular&category=People&safe=true>

ABOUT ISAAC WILES

Firm Overview

With an ideal blend of inventive thinking and Midwestern practicality, Isaac Wiles holds a unique position among Ohio law firms.

Isaac Wiles is a premier, full-service law firm that strives to deliver results that exceed our clients' expectations by adding maximum value to their organizations. We achieve this goal by hiring and retaining top-level diverse talent in all functional areas of our firm and by working collaboratively to leverage our combined expertise. Our 52 plus attorney firm, with eleven practice areas, can manage complex sophisticated legal matters while offering personal, thoughtful client service.

Our firm is committed to the Central Ohio community and we take pride in supporting several regional and national non-profit organizations that are "near and dear" to our hearts, these include: Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Ohio, The American Heart Association, The American Cancer Society and Special Olympics Ohio. Our dedication to philanthropic service involves not only financial stewardship, but volunteer time to the charities we partner with.

Isaac Wiles is invested in the continued development of an enriching, diverse corporate culture that celebrates all our employees' contributions and successes. We encourage professional and leadership development within the walls of our firm and in outside civic and industry associations. Many of our attorneys and staff sit on boards and committees as part of their involvement in the groups they are members. This level of participation ensures that our internal leadership remains open minded to innovation and change, facilitating our consistent growth as a firm.

ABOUT MARK LANDES

A brief scan of Mark Landes' illustrious career accomplishments reveals why no case can intimidate him. He was a prosecutor for a US cavalry unit stationed along the Iron Curtain, and served as a civil litigator at The Pentagon.

More recently, Mark earned an \$11.2 million jury verdict for a developer, and represents 65 Ohio counties and 110 school districts and other government entities and businesses.

His appointments are impressive as well, as he was named special master for the U.S. District Court, and serves as Special Counsel for the Ohio Attorney General for some of their most challenging cases. Mark is also on the Drafting Committee of the Ohio Jury Instructions for Employment Discrimination Cases.

Mark is Managing Partner of Isaac Wiles and Co-chair of the Public Law practice group.



Contact Information

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Mark Landes

Mark Landes has represented officials at every level of government. He started out as a Prosecutor for the Army Cavalry stationed at the Iron Curtain in Germany, and has defended the Department of Defense, the State of Ohio, all of its counties, and countless school districts, cities, villages, townships and transit authorities.

He is listed in America's Best Lawyers in Municipal Litigation, Employment Law, and First Amendment Law and in SuperLawyer voting was in the Top 50.

He is Managing Partner of Isaac Wiles, which was named a Tier One firm for Public Law by US News and World Report.

His full biographical material is attached.