



# #LOBBYING

## AND LEGISLATIVE ACTION

### Lobbying

The Puerto Rico Chamber of Commerce (PRCC) understands that maintaining an active presence in the legislative process is essential to assuring a sustainable economic development for Puerto Rico and its private sector. Thus, the PRCC is one of the local private associations with more presence in the Puerto Rico Legislative Assembly and the United States Congress, given that it represents all business sectors in the island. Its leadership in the entrepreneurial community is upheld by the value to its members of the lobbying activities as a basic service for protecting and defending the interests of the private sectors, not only in Puerto Rico but in the U.S. Congress as well. It is also the private sector organization most consulted by legislative committees with regard to bills or projects submitted for their consideration.

The PRCC assumes its position regarding a legislative bill after evaluating its impact on the economy and commerce, while refraining from partisan or political considerations. This is always done considering the mission of our organization to encourage and support the development of our constituents, providing knowledge, representations of all sectors and protecting the values and principles of the free market. Our achievements demonstrate that the PRCC has been highly effective in identifying legislation that would be damaging to the entrepreneurial community prior to becoming law, by means of careful evaluation, submission of analyses to the legislative bodies. In addition, by means of the Working Committees the PRCC offers its members the opportunity to express their ideas on legislative measures that are needed to promote the socioeconomic welfare of our country.

We keep our members up to date regarding the progress of legislation pending consideration by the legislative bodies by means of our institutional publication, "Informe Legislativo", which can be accessed through our webpage

### Scope of Legislative Action

- ▶▶ Negotiate and support legislation favorable to the private sector.
- ▶▶ Stop legislation or unfavorable determinations that affect economic development and businesses.
- ▶▶ Prepare and present testimony before legislative committees.
- ▶▶ Appear at legislative and government agency public hearings in order to set forth the Chamber's position.
- ▶▶ Support and lobby in favor of the private sector at the municipal level, the courts or any competent forum.
- ▶▶ Report on legislation in progress.
- ▶▶ Report new laws that impact the business sector.
- ▶▶ Meet with government leaders to discuss and find development alternatives for the private sector and the economy.

 [www.camarapr.org/ponenciaswn.html](http://www.camarapr.org/ponenciaswn.html)



# RESOLUTION CENTER

## What is the Conflict Resolution Center (CRC) of the Puerto Rico Chamber of Commerce?

The use of the mediation and arbitration are effective forms to alleviate the tight calendar of the courts in our country. The fast pace of today's business world deems it necessary to create expeditious formulas to solve conflicts that are generated in the relations of commercial exchange. For these reasons, in many jurisdictions businesses have found in mediation and arbitration the most effective and efficient mechanisms to solve their conflicts. Hence, the PRCC has implemented mechanisms of mediation and arbitration through a forum (CRC), to help its members or the public in general, solve in a flexible, economic and fast way any commercial conflict, before mediators or impartial referees.

## What is mediation?

Mediation is the process in which people can resolve their controversies. Through dialog and with the aid of an impartial mediator, each of the parties in a dispute have the opportunity to present and or display their opinion on the conflict and to participate voluntarily to obtain a mutually satisfactory agreement.

## What is arbitration?

Arbitration provides an equal opportunity to the parties involved to present and or display their positions, theories and evidence in an adjudicative procedure which is faster and more reliable than a judicial one. This procedure concludes with the emission of an arbitrations award in which it resolves the totality of the controversies and issues presented to the referee. The parties have the option to decide whether or not to undergo this procedure which is un-appealable.

## Some Advantages of Mediation and Arbitration:

- ▶ **FAST:** Allows a conclusion to be reached in less time due to the speed of its process and development.
- ▶ **IMPARTIALITY:** Both parties are guaranteed to be treated with impartiality by the excellent referees and mediators recruited by the Puerto Rico Chamber of Commerce, hence the ruling will be just. The parties involved may choose from a registry of mediators and referees a neutral third option.
- ▶ **LOW-COST:** Mediation and arbitrage are relatively less expensive than a judicial process.
- ▶ **PRIVACY:** Maintains strict confidentiality of the process, which benefits both parties.

## Elegible cases for mediation and arbitration:

- ▶ Debt collection
- ▶ Renting of personal and non personal property.
- ▶ Insurance contracts.
- ▶ Transportation contracts
- ▶ Distribution contracts
- ▶ Damages of commercial nature
- ▶ Other controversies of commercial nature

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# LEGISLATIVE REPORT

A new digital parliamentary publication: “**INFORME LEGISLATIVO**” (Legislative Report) is available to our members. This publication is edited by our director of Legal and Legislative Services, Wanda Pérez, Esq.

This report presents a updated summary of the projects in which the PRCC is working on and those that its following through the legislative process. At the end of each session, a more detailed report will be published specifying each new law approved that can positively or negatively affect our members. Links to the presented projects are included so the reader could make his own analysis.



Help us improve this report by sending your comments to: [wperez@camararapr.net](mailto:wperez@camararapr.net)

#VOICE

AND ACTION OF PRIVATE ENTERPRISE