



SPEAKER'S BIO



ALLISON BECK

**DIRECTOR,
FEDERAL MEDIATION AND CONCILIATION SERVICE**

Allison Beck is the 18th Director of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service (FMCS). She is the first woman to serve in this capacity since the Agency's founding in 1947. Before her appointment by President Obama, Ms. Beck served for more than four years both as FMCS Acting Director and Deputy Director for National and International Programs.

As Director, Ms. Beck has launched the first in-depth examination of the Agency's structure and services in more than 20 years. The pressures of the global economy and the changing nature of work have created significant challenges for the labor-management and government parties FMCS serves, and under her direction, FMCS has embraced a culture of innovation and operational excellence to meet these evolving needs. Under Ms. Beck's leadership, representatives from labor, management and the new "gig" economy are educating Agency mediators about their workplace conflict resolution needs. FMCS is using 21st century technology to reach the widest possible audience -- a new website and email-subscription system inform customers, in real time, about web-based training programs on subjects like negotiations, communications and interest-based problem-solving. They can also log in to webinars featuring labor-management success stories, or learn about regional labor-management conferences. And, they can follow FMCS on social media, such as Facebook and Twitter!

During Ms. Beck's tenure, she has conducted extensive outreach to the labor-management community, worked on special projects involving labor relations and collective bargaining, and has personally mediated a number of high profile labor-management disputes involving health care, communications and public sector pensions, among others. In 2014, she mediated the successful New York Metropolitan Opera negotiations that averted a potential season-disrupting work stoppage for one of the world's premier opera companies. She has also revamped the delivery of FMCS conflict resolution services to government under the Administrative Dispute Resolution and Negotiated Rulemaking Acts and has overseen the growth of the Agency's international labor relations and conflict resolution training services, working with the U.S. departments of State and Labor to help emerging market economies achieve workplace stability and, thus, greater opportunities for investment and growth, while levelling the playing field for U.S. businesses and workers by raising labor standards overseas.

Prior to coming to FMCS, Ms. Beck had an extensive career in the field of labor law and labor-management relations. For 20 years, she served as General Counsel of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, AFL-CIO (IAM), where she supervised the legal affairs of a large, international union, became well-versed in all aspects of labor and employment law, and litigated cases in Federal court and before government labor agencies.

Ms. Beck began her legal career as an appellate court attorney in the Enforcement Division of the National Labor Relations Board. While attending law school at night, she served as a legislative aide on employment issues to the late Senator Alan Cranston (D-CA) and the U.S. Senate Labor Committee. Over the course of her career, she has served on the boards of a number of non-profit organizations and has been a frequent speaker at labor-management, bar association, and other conferences.